

## Iran talks tough on islands

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran would fight to keep every "millimetre" of the three strategic Gulf islands claimed also by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said: "These islands are historically part of Iran and we would not retreat from even one millimetre of them." The minister said, referring to the disputed islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tubb and Lesser Tubb. Mr. Velayati, who was speaking to a group of Revolutionary Guards' commanders, said Iran would first try to resolve the problem with the UAE through political means, but would defend itself if pressured or invaded. Mr. Velayati's remarks were published by Tehran newspapers Saturday. Iran and the UAE, which also claims sovereignty over the islands in the southern Gulf, were scheduled to resume negotiations over the disputed territory in September. But last week Abu Dhabi cancelled a trip by the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, after Iran reaffirmed on Sept. 8 its sovereignty over the islands. "UAE is convinced that there is no desire on the Iranian side to ensure the success of the visit," said a UAE spokesman.



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PCC to meet in two weeks

TUNIS (AFP) — A meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) is to be held in two weeks to endorse the agreement on Palestinian autonomy signed with Israel, a senior Palestinian official said here Saturday. The meeting of the council was likely to be held in Tunis, said Executive Committee member Suliman Najjar. Mr. Najjar said the meeting of the 100-member council would be preceded by a session of the decision-making Executive Committee, which approved the self-rule deal despite the dissent of two of its members. He ruled out an early meeting of the 400-strong Palestine National Council, the "parliament-in-exile" whose members are dispersed around the world, but said "maybe one can be held in Jericho," which receives autonomy next month along with the Gaza Strip.

## Bouez criticises Israeli-PLO accord

CAIRO (AFP) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez Saturday criticised the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, saying his country wanted to see "more extended" Palestinian powers in the autonomous areas. Mr. Bouez, here to take part in Sunday's meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab League countries (see separate story), said he had some "observations" to make on the accord "in particular on the subject of the return of Palestinian refugees," especially those in Lebanon. He said inter-Arab differences were "unacceptable" currently because "we are embarking on a very important phase."

## Guerrillas attack SLA positions

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas attacked posts manned by Israel's surrogate South Lebanon (SLA) militia Saturday. Security sources said no casualties were reported. The sources said the guerrillas fired several mortar rounds at an SLA post in Shoumariyah in the central sector of Israel's self-styled "security zone" at 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT). They said the guerrillas also had attacked Shoumariyah and another SLA post in Rasif at midnight (2100 GMT). The attacks were claimed by the Islamic Resistance, the military wing of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. An Islamic resistance communiqué said the assaults inflicted "several Israeli casualties."

## Hizbullah-army tension in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Tension ran high in a Beirut neighbourhood on Saturday after Lebanese troops briefly detained members of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah, witnesses said. The incident occurred a day before a rally called by the group to commemorate the killing by troops of protesters opposing an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal. Hizbullah announced the rally in a Beirut suburb despite a government ban on demonstrations. Witnesses said Hizbullah men, armed with U.S.-made M-16 assault rifles, took to the streets of Wadi Abu Jni' district of Beirut after two comrades were detained at an army checkpoint in the area.

## Israel rejects referendum on deal

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Saturday rejected a call by Israeli opposition parties for a national referendum on the Palestinian self-rule deal signed on Monday in Washington. Mr. Peres told Israel Radio a referendum would limit Israel's ability to negotiate. "Every time the other party will ask, 'okay, are you empowered to make a decision,' we have to turn to a referendum," he said. The opposition Likud party, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, has repeatedly demanded a referendum on the deal with the PLO which it says is a step towards the formation of a Palestinian state (see page 2). Mr. Peres said: "When the Likud decided to give back the last inch of Sinai, did they make a referendum?"

# King: No step yet to delay polls, but situation under study

HM underlines need for national unity and cohesion at 'these sensitive times'

Jordan supports Palestinian decision and seeks increased coordination with PLO

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Hussein told a group of prominent journalists and writers Saturday.

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday plans to hold parliamentary elections on Nov. 8 remain unchanged, even though Jordan is "seriously considering the implications and possibilities of many of the questions to which we have no answers" in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli self-rule agreement.

Among the possibilities that the King cited as reasons for reconsidering holding the elections as scheduled were possible attempts to raise the autonomy agreement during the elections in a way that might harm national unity.

King Hussein also cited the unique demographic composition of Jordan that might be affected by the decision of some Palestinians to return to the occupied territories, an issue which he said will be discussed with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat when he visits Jordan later this week.

"Protecting democracy is a commitment and a duty and a march on a direction from which there is no going back," King

where Jordan tried to recover the occupied territories, to a new situation where "we accepted the independence of the Palestinian and Arab request." He said, however, that Jordan did not work to liberate the occupied territories so that they (the Palestinians) would go back to it, but in order to allow its people to decide what they wanted.

King Hussein confirmed Jordan's decision to no longer provide the Palestinians with an "umbrella" to attend the peace talks because it is not needed any more, adding that the mechanism was used to enable the Palestinians to represent themselves in the negotiations.

"Jordan will continue to provide utmost support for the Palestinian people," said the King, emphasising that Jordan will work to have stronger relations with the PLO.

Though expressing dissatisfaction with the previous level of coordination that the PLO maintained with Jordan, King Hussein said Jordan will seek better coordination with the organisation.

"We stood by Iraq and the people of Iraq and we will continue to stand by (the people) of Iraq, in which, according to a report by UNICEF, the number of children who die because of lack of food and medicine will rise to a million in the coming few months," the King said.

"We were concerned for Kuwait and concerned for Saudi Arabia and concerned for Iraq and all parts of the Arab World," the King emphasised.

In that light, Jordan has nothing to apologise for, King Hussein said, recalling demands, which he did not specify, from Arab Gulf states that Jordan apologise for its position before Arab reconciliation could begin.

"But under the circumstances, if I was to apologise for any personal offence that I might

(Continued on page 5).



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets with the local press in a gathering attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid (Petra photo)

Khalid Al Karaki, Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid (Petra photo)

# Palestine's capital will be East Jerusalem — Arafat

HAMBURG (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in an interview appearing Monday that he hoped to announce soon the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Arafat told the German newsmagazine *Der Spiegel* that "Palestinians and Israelis will live in peace side by side in Jerusalem," and that West Jerusalem would remain the capital of the Jewish state.

In an excerpt released by the magazine Saturday, Mr. Arafat said the future of the Palestinian state rests in "the framework of a confederation with Jordan."

Turning to the PLO-Israeli autonomy pact signed Monday in Washington, Mr. Arafat said the accord was "the best that could be achieved given current relations in the Arab World, and the new world order."

He said criticism that his actions had irritated Syria and harmed Damascus in its talks with Israel over recovering the Golan Heights was baseless.

"I know that our Syrian friends have prepared several proposals to solve the problem of the

Golan," he said. "As far as I know, Syria will sign an agreement with Israel in the near future, as will Lebanon and Jordan," he said.

Once all the bilateral agreements are signed, "all the Arab states will reach peace accords with Israel," the PLO leader added.

Mr. Arafat is due to visit Egypt on Sunday to brief Arab foreign ministers at Arab League headquarters on details of the accord.

## Reopening U.S. office

The United States has discussed with the PLO the opening of an office in Washington once Congress lifts certain restrictions, a State Department spokesman said Friday.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the talks took place earlier this week when Mr. Arafat was in Washington for the signing of the peace accord with Israel.

Earlier Friday in Amman, Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erakat said the PLO will set up diplomatic representation in the United States within weeks at the same level as its delegation in France.

(Continued on page 5)

# Damascus alliance calls on Palestinians to foil peace plan

Combined agency dispatches

and Muslims ... to promote the disgraceful agreement, which imposes the dangers of civil war among the Palestinians."

It called on Palestinians "to intensify struggle in order to foil the Arafat-Rabin agreement" with the goal of "full liberation of Palestine, with its capital in Jerusalem."

The opposition groups, while united against the pact, have widely differing ideologies and may find it hard to coordinate any campaign.

They range from the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas, most active in the Gaza Strip, which rejects any dealings with the Jewish state and calls for its destruction, to PLO factions that advocate working through Palestinian institutions to subvert the accord.

Mr. Arafat has argued that the autonomy agreement will lead, in time, to independence.

The groups issued a statement condemning the agreement as a means "to establish a greater Israel which plans to control the Middle East economically, politically and militarily."

It was especially critical of Mr. Arafat, saying he "has been misleading the Palestinians. Arabs

gave no details.

Iran has rejected the peace agreement, calling it a betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

Mr. Arafat has indicated he will not oppose the peace accord, saying it is up to the Palestinians themselves to decide on its merits.

But he has not prevented the groups opposed to the pact from using the Syrian capital as a base. Many of the factions are headquartered in Damascus.

Mr. Sheikholeslam met here Friday night with senior Hamas leader Mustafa Lidawi.

Mr. Lidawi, who is Hamas' envoy to Damascus, is a refugee from the occupied Gaza Strip who was deported from the occupied territories in 1992 for activities against the Jewish state.

He is a top member of Hamas who is believed to have been one of the masterminds of the nearly six-year-old Palestinian uprising and a leader of Hamas fighters in the Strip.

He repeated earlier Hamas demands that it had signed a nonviolence agreement with Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction.

(Continued on page 5)

# Rabin, Assad to visit Egypt

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will travel to Egypt for a surprise summit with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a spokesman said Saturday.

Mr. Rabin will leave Sunday, spending "several hours" meeting with Mr. Mubarak in Alexandria, said the spokesman in Mr. Rabin's office, David Kleizel.

Another spokesman, Gad Ben Ari, said the Israeli premier would fly to Egypt following a cabinet meeting and would return to Israel in the evening.

Israeli officials have been urging Egypt to use its influence in the Arab World to try to persuade other Arab states to recognise and normalise ties with Israel.

After signing a peace treaty with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Washington this week, Mr. Rabin made a surprise trip to Morocco, where he met with King Hassan II. There was also speculation that Mr. Rabin might travel to Tunisia following his trip to Morocco, but he returned to Israel because of the Jewish New Year.

Mr. Rabin last met the Egyptian president on April 14 although Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who signed the historic autonomy agreement at the White House on Monday, visited Egypt in July.

Mr. Peres said Saturday that Egypt and Morocco were extremely important for the PLO.

Mr. Arafat has indicated he will not turn to, apart from Egypt — which has played an important role here — and Morocco," Mr. Peres said in an Israeli Radio interview.

Three countries have openly condemned the accord on Palestinian self-rule signed in Washington on Monday: Libya, calling it a "farce," Iraq, describing it as "a sellout" and Lebanon, which said it weakened the Arab position in the peace process.

But most of the Arab World has backed the deal granting autonomy first to the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Arafat, basking in the glory of Israel's recognition of the PLO and his reception at the White House, is expected to be the star of the meeting but the PLO leader will be called upon to justify his option for a separate peace with Israel, 14 years after Egypt did.

The ministers will allow him "to obtain the greatest official and public Arab support," another diplomat said. "This support will bolster his position with the Palestinians, who remain divided over the accord."

The League will be seeking unanimity among its 21 members at the meeting, which is to be attended by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, an Arab diplomat.

(Continued on page 5)

# Government launches 5-year economic and social plan

Autonomy will draw investment to region — Fariz

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government Saturday launched the Kingdom's 1993-1997 economic and social plan which envisages a JD 5.242 million overall investment at current prices spread over five years.

Launching the plan at a news conference, Planning Minister Ziad Fariz said that the share of the public sector was estimated at JD 1.874 million, or 35.8 per cent of the total investment.

The private sector was given a share of JD 3.368 million or 61.1 per cent of the total investment in 1993. The percentage is to rise to 67.1 per cent by 1997.

Dr. Fariz stressed that the plan reflects the government's keenness to rationalise government spending, especially in production sectors, and expanding the role of the private sector in economic development.

The minister explained that the government's spending would amount to JD 810 million in social investments, JD 890 million in infrastructure projects and JD 174 million in "other government expenditure."

(Continued on page 5)

# Arab League expected to approve Israel-PLO deal

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League foreign ministers meet here on Sunday to give their expected backing to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel autonomy pact, despite opposition or reservations from some members.

It is likely to stress that peace will not be final until the liberation of all the occupied territories, including the Syrian Golan Heights, South Lebanon and Jerusalem, and insist on the need for a comprehensive settlement based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, he added.

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The ministers will allow him "to obtain the greatest official and public Arab support," another diplomat said. "This support will bolster his position with the Palestinians, who remain divided over the accord."

A lifting of the Arab economic boycott of Israel, strongly urged by the United States, is not on the agenda.

As for Iraq's return into the Arab fold, League Secretary

General Esmat Abdul Meguid will brief the foreign ministers on his efforts to bring about Arab reconciliation, league sources said.

U.S., British and French "threates" against Libya will also be discussed, they said.

"Libya faces international sanctions for refusing to hand over two suspects wanted in Britain and the United States for the bombing of a Pan Am jet over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December 1988, which left 270 people dead."

An international air and military embargo imposed to force Tripoli to hand over the two men and two others wanted by France in connection with the 1989 bombing of a UTA airliner over Niger, is set to be tightened if there are no developments before Oct. 1.

The Arab foreign ministers are expected to uphold the U.N. sanctions while "reiterating their solidarity" with the Libyan people and "halting" Tripoli's measures to reach a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

(Continued on page 10)

Joe D. in 1988

## Rabin may be forced to referendum to shore up peacemaking

By Nicolas B. Tatro  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's choice of hand-shake partners will be tested and his peace initiative with Yasser Arafat may squeak through by a tiny margin in parliament next week.

If so, Mr. Rabin will have to find a way to mobilise public opinion or lose momentum towards the next breakthrough — an agreement with Syria.

His choices are a referendum or new elections.

The showdown comes Monday, when the Knesset, Israel's parliament, begins debate on the peace package signed in Washington with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). A vote is expected Tuesday.

The proposal for a non-binding

poli may be hard to refuse because it comes from Shas, the ultra-religious party of Sephardic Jews that holds six key seats in its 120-member parliament.

"This is the only guarantee that future agreements will not be attacked as having been made by a minority government," said Shas leader Aryeh Deri.

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get a fragile one-vote majority of approval. Some Labour Party officials argue that such a victory is good enough but Mr. Rabin wants a Jewish majority in parliament, one that does not rely on pro-PLO activists.

Nissim Zvili, secretary-general of Labour, did not rule out a referendum but said that could stop the peace process just as it was gathering steam.

"From one side, I would like very much to have a vote. We feel we have a very big majority that supports the agreement. From the other side, I would not like to stop the process," said Mr. Zvili.

Insiders suggest Mr. Rabin has been reluctant to pile too much change on Israel at once and wants the Shas issue not to be rushed until there are clear indications of public support. Hence, a referendum may become attractive — especially if it eases the rift with Shas.

Mr. Deri, 33, the leading proponent of a referendum, is the protege of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of the party with a vast following among Sephardi Jews from Middle East and North African countries.

Right-wing sloganering

against ceding the Golan has had more of an impact on Israel's landscape than the PLO issue.

Farm fields, sides of buildings, car bumpers and balconies throughout the country have signs saying "Peace with the Golan" and "Don't move from the Golan."

Leaders of the opposition Likud bloc are against a referendum, with Binyamin Netanyahu saying it could not be fair because the government would be phrasing the question. Mr. Netanyahu proposed early elections, but they are not expected to succeed in parliament unless Labour lost a referendum.

The Likud head argued that an election now would test not only Israeli support for the agreement, but how negotiations are pursued on subjects like security for Israelis, the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinians.

"These questions can be answered only in the new elections, and the public should be able to decide who will carry out the future negotiations," he said on Israel Radio. Elections are scheduled for 1996.

Rabbi Yosef broke with the ultra-religious Ashkenazi parties in backing Labour after the 1992 elections and has made an important religious ruling that "pikuah nefesh," the saving of life, justifies giving up Israeli-held land for peace.

But the Iraqi-born Yosef, 73, is wavering in his support for the government because Mr. Deri was forced to resign as interior minister this week.

Mr. Deri resigned after police charged that he channelled \$250,000 in government funds to the coffers of the Shas Party and for his own personal benefit. Party members claimed that bias against Sephardim was behind the corruption investigations.

A referendum might clear the way for Shas to stay in the coalition, especially because it was a Shas proposal.

## U.S., Israel pressure Syria, Hawatmeh says

DAMASCUS (R) — A Palestinian leader said Friday the United States and Israel were piling pressure on Syria to silence opposition to a Palestinian-Israeli peace deal but predicted Damascus would not respond.

Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) told a news conference that Syrian Vice President Abd al-Halim Khaddam had told him of the pressure and had pledged support for resistance groups.

"Syria will support our people in their struggle for self-determination and to solve the problem of the refugees because more than 50 per cent of our people are living outside the occupied territories," Mr. Hawatmeh said, referring to assurances he said he had received from Mr. Khaddam.

Mr. Hawatmeh said DFLP delegation met with Mr. Khaddam on Thursday.

"During our talks ... he told us of U.S. and Israeli pressure to restrict Palestinian opposition to the deal," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

Mr. Khaddam said Syria's response was that there was opposition in Israel "so why not ask (Israeli Premier Yitzhak) Rabin to restrict opposition there?"

"... Syria will not allow such pressure from the American administration and the Rabin government," Mr. Hawatmeh added.

He did not say who had asked Syria to help restrain Palestinian opposition or when the approaches were made.

U.S. President Bill Clinton telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad twice in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

No advance had been made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace talks in 11 rounds over almost two years.

Mr. Hawatmeh said he and Mr. Khaddam had "agreed there was no agreement worse than the

## Photographers fired on by U.S. forces in Mogadishu

(Israeli-PLO) deal and that Syria did not support ... an agreement which divided the Arab fronts."

The official newspaper Al Thawra noted on Friday that the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli peace deal but predicted Damascus would not respond.

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MOGADISHU (AP) — A British photographer for the Associated Press was fired on with stun grenades from a U.S. helicopter Saturday, apparently to block him from photographing the aircraft in action.

Peter Northall and a Somali translator, Mohammad Hussein Jinade, said at least six of the small grenades exploded around them as Mr. Northall was taking pictures of the helicopter flying low to chase crowds from a street market.

The soldiers on the chopper began firing after waving at him to leave the area, Mr. Northall said. The blast of one grenade forced him backward, he said. Another blew out the back window of his nearby van.

"I saw a flash on the ground about two feet in front of me," Mr. Northall said. "That was the one that knocked me backward."

Abdul Haki Senna, a Moroccan photographer for Agence France-Presse, said he also saw small blasts around him as he tried to photograph crowds while helicopters flew overhead. He said he did not see the crew warn him away.

Mr. Northall said the U.S. soldiers aboard the Blackhawk helicopter continued to fire the grenades at him even after he held out his two cameras at arms length to identify himself as a photographer.

The aircraft was only about 30 to 40 metres away so the soldiers should have been able to see him, Mr. Northall said. He added that the soldiers apparently did not want him to take pictures of the helicopter using its down draft to empty the street, turning over market stalls in the process.

Mr. Jinade and two other Somali employees of the AP were inside the van when the back window was blown out, spraying glass but injuring no one.

The European Community (EC) is to start a three-day visit of Gulf states from Sunday to help promote the Israeli-Palestinian accord and seek financial support, a Foreign Ministry statement said here Saturday.

"We find that the main aid donor for the newborn Palestinian entity will inevitably be the Gulf states," said Jassim Al Saadun, a Gulf economist and economic adviser to the Kuwaiti Ministry.

The troika: the diplomatic arm of the European Community will visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait, the Greek foreign ministry said.

The European mission comprises ministers or senior officials from Belgium, current holder of the community's rotating presidency, and Denmark and Greece, respectively the past and future presidents.

The mission is to "stress the

protagonist role that the EC is to play in (the) economic and social support of the Palestinians" following the accord signed in Washington last Monday, the Greek statement said.

The Belgian foreign ministry said Friday that the mission would be headed by the Belgian secretary of state for cooperation and development, Erik Derycke.

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## Jordan in seminal test

SHOULD JORDAN, in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on mutual recognition and autonomy in the occupied territories, postpone parliamentary elections now scheduled for Nov. 8? This is the big question currently being asked and debated, sometimes heatedly, by both Jordanians and Palestinians.

Those who advocate a postponement do so on the premise that the elections campaign will most certainly be dominated by the potentially divisive issue of the agreement and its consequences on Jordan, Palestine and the region as a whole. They contend that the groups opposing the accord — the Islamists, the ultra-nationalists and the Palestinian rejectionists — will combine forces to attract a large number of voters to their side. The targeted voters, many of whom are of Palestinian origin, will most probably be opposed to the agreement given the ambiguity of its terms, but especially its failure to address the problem of the 1948 refugees in Jordan who comprise the majority of Palestinians in the country.

The argument goes like this: If the anti-agreement forces do unite their efforts, they might be able to send a majority of anti-peace deputies to Parliament. Furthermore, some of those who want the elections put off say how Palestinians, especially those from the West Bank, could be allowed to vote twice, once for Jordan's Parliament and another for the self-government council envisaged in the autonomy deal.

The opponents, particularly those who strongly opposed last month's electoral change to the one-person one-vote formula, fear that the elections, taking place as they would be against the backdrop of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, might create explosive sensitivities between Jordanians and Palestinians at a time when Jordan is in its greatest need to maintain national unity and cohesion. Some of the opponents even charge that the present Cabinet is a partisan government, and that the present stage requires, instead, a "national unity government" whose resolution to either hold or postpone elections will be acceptable to more people across the board. Those opponents say that the make-up of this government, "which is predominantly East Jordanian," might lead it to concentrate on the duality of loyalty in the Jordanian body politic, and as such, it should not be entrusted with the task of holding elections.

The proponents of holding the elections on their scheduled date, on the other hand, say any postponement would be a setback to democracy both on the local level and to Jordan's image abroad. They believe that the election season will be the most appropriate opportunity for the peace agreement to be disseminated and for Jordanians and Palestinians to begin their long-awaited debate on the relationship between them and on what they want to do with themselves and how they want to shape their future and ties from now on.

This camp strongly believes that Jordanians and Palestinians who accept the larger PLO agreement will together say yes to it. And those who oppose it will do so together also. They say this is what democracy is all about and they feel confident that there will be a positive response to the accord in the end. These yeasayers, while insisting that Jordan will choose a "responsible" parliament no matter what the issues at stake are, also maintain that the democratic march cannot be stopped for any reason, regardless of how sensitive or difficult the circumstances around us. They cite the experience of the 1989 elections when the candidates tackled, at an equally critical time for Jordan, issues as big as potentially divisive and sensitive as the autonomy agreement and Jordanian-Palestinian relations — past, present and future. Postponing elections at this juncture, contrary to what the opponents think, will send negative signals to the different political parties, to the Palestinian constituency in Jordan and to the country at large. It will throw the door wide open for pent-up feelings by both Jordanians and Palestinians to fester, especially in the absence of the right forum to discuss all outstanding issues frankly and in the open. The Palestinians in particular must not be left to feel any sort of isolation and discrimination by waiting until their final status was resolved and before the elections could be held. In view of these hefty arguments for and against, we believe that Jordan's higher interests are better served by a decision to go ahead with holding the elections on time. It is true the PLO-Israeli agreement has raised more questions than it provided answers, and that some time is needed to try to close the gaps before a final decision is taken by His Majesty. But the fact that the anti-peace camp is very active, and at times acts deviously in its opposition to the peace process, is not in itself a good excuse to halt the natural process towards more democracy and not give the people their rightful chance to have their say on what they choose and decide for themselves.

The proponents of peace and those who believe in the righteousness of the Jordanian-Palestinian cause and unity of purpose should come out of the closet, and they are the vast majority, and explain their position and beliefs loudly and clearly.

Democracy is mainly about public participation in the decisions made on the people's future, and this participation can only take place in a healthy and open atmosphere, away from unjustified fears, patronization and national taboos. This country, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, has already overcome major obstacles facing its progress and development. It has also come a long way in making democracy a way of life for its people. We thus cannot afford, nor must we allow, the process to be retarded or stopped, even under such difficult situations as those we are passing through now. Postponing the elections for a year or two might not threaten our democracy, but a step like this might be thought of, perceived or viewed as regression and weakness on our part. But a more important reason for proceeding with the elections on time is that any compelling consideration to postpone them is easily outweighed by the merits and advantages of doing otherwise.

This country and its people, Jordanians and Palestinians alike, are not only ready for the biggest campaign towards democratic practice in our lifetime. We are also prepared to meet the challenge of national achievement and political maturity head on. There is no question that Jordan is more than capable of, and will fare well in, passing the seminal test.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

### The economics of the peace agreement

The Palestinian-Israeli interim agreement on Gaza and Jericho has four annexes; two of them deal with economic aspects. The third annex is protocol on development and economic programmes and the fourth is a protocol on development plans and concepts for the region. It was confirmed that there are no confidential annexes. The so-called confidential annexes published by some tabloids were fake, as one can easily conclude upon reading them.

The two economic protocols, published on Sept. 1, 1993, by Al Ra'i newspaper, as translated from the Israeli newspaper Yediot Achronot, are not exactly identical with the official text published by Al Ra'i on Sept. 13, 1993, as supplied by PLO sources in Tunis.

A thorough study of the Israeli version of the economic protocols would make us pause on certain odd provisions:

— Cooperation over water resources regards the rights of the two parties over the water of the West Bank and Gaza only. This is an application of the rule of the strongest: What is mine is mine and what is yours is negotiable!

— There is reference to a free trade area, which means full opening up to trade without customs protection. Free trade areas are of course different from duty free zones. It is very unlikely that the Palestinian infant industry will be able to compete with the large scale and well-established Israeli industry without a measure of protection. A minimum import duty of 30 to 50 per cent is essential not only to protect domestic industry but also to secure revenue for the treasury of the Palestinian self-government.

— The protocol suggests the establishment of Palestinian-Israeli joint companies in the West Bank and Gaza, an indication that Israel would like to have Israeli products labeled "Made in Palestine" to be exported to Jordan and other Arab markets.

— The economic protocol covers cooperation and coordination in the field of information and communication. It is not understood why the media activity should be covered in the economic and developmental protocol.

— The protocol on regional development calls on the two parties to work as one team, with full coordination among themselves towards development of the Middle East region as a whole, including the establishment of regional funds and developmental banks, the exploitation together with Jordan of the Dead Sea resources, the connection of electricity networks, regional cooperation in the field of transporting (Arab) oil, touristic development and complementarities, etc.

The PLO version of the same protocols refers to the common water, not only to West Bank and Gaza water resources. It plays down the free trade area to make it limited on both sides.

It is extremely important to verify the Arabic translation of the agreement and the protocols in order for us to be able to assess them properly. It is true that both the government of Israel and the PLO are under pressure to twist the facts and explanations in order to sell the agreement to hostile opposition, but we need to have a look at the final version which was signed Sept. 13, 1993.

However, what are more striking in the economic protocols are not the areas that were left with or covered one way or another, but the areas which were missing altogether.

The agreement on Gaza and Jericho first and the four protocols annexed to it kept silence over the following aspects: local currency and monetary authority, foreign trade and customs duty, direct and indirect taxes, licensing new industries, foreign borrowing, housing and returnees absorption, aviation, passports, confiscated lands, laws of return.

## Dangers, hurdles and hope

By Rashid Khalidi

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** — For 26 years it was illegal to possess a Palestinian flag in the occupied territories. On Monday, young men waved flags openly as they drove in jubilant, horn-honking processions through the refugee camps, villages and narrow city streets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

They were reflecting what many Palestinians here feel about the agreement signed in Washington: the misery of two and a half decades of occupation has been so intense that almost any change is welcome.

Some changes that have already taken place, such as mutual recognition between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, were greeted with pleasure by the majority of Palestinians. And the possibility that the accord marks the end of the tide of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and of the historical process of expulsion of the Palestinians from their homeland is also significant.

But the obstacles that still stand in the way of a lasting peace, and of the Palestinian stability and prosperity that would guarantee it, are truly daunting.

For one thing, the framework of the peace process, with its phases and interim phases, is unnecessarily constricted and complicated — a legacy of Israel's Likud government and of conditions imposed by American officials on the Madrid negotiations that led to the new agreement. This formula played a major part in preventing progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track for nearly two years; it was finally jettisoned by the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but the idea of phases is still with us.

The negotiators will have to face not only the complexity of the issues themselves but also the involvement of an American "full partner" whose contribution has so far been less than constructive. In recent months, the input of American policymakers has been so one-sided that it has been as negative as it was positive, not only Palestinians but even the Israelis themselves.

This was most evident during the May and June rounds of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, when U.S. policymakers intervened, presenting draft documents that were unacceptable to both sides. In both cases the American drafts were less forthcoming to the Palestinians than the Israelis' drafts: a U.S. draft of a "declaration of principles" went beyond the Israelis' proposals on a whole array of crucial issues, including who might ultimately have sovereignty over the territories.

Unless the Clinton administration can learn to play an impartial role — taking as a starting point what the parties themselves say they want instead of what the United States thinks they should want — it will continue to be neither a mediator nor an honest broker, but rather a major obstacle in the path of peace.

And even if all goes well in the many months of painful negotiations to come, the results are bound to be meager: nothing more than the shape of interim arrangements for fewer than half the Palestinian people (those in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) for five years at most.

The really hard issues — the status of Jerusalem, the disposition of Israeli settlements, Palestinian statehood and sovereignty, the issue of refugees, to name just a few — are to be left to "final status" talks. Many Palestinians will not benefit from these arrangements for years, if ever — particularly those in Lebanon and Syria (most of them 1948 refugees and their descendants).

So, too, with the powerful Palestinian economic interests, many of which have already taken tentative steps toward cooperation with Israeli businesses. Again, in principle this is a wonderful thing. And the active involvement of the major Palestinian banking, construction, investment and accounting



firms, which have contributed so much to creating and sustaining the prosperity of numerous Arab countries, is essential if there is to be a strong Palestinian economy.

But those firms and the people who control them have their own interests. These may or may not coincide with the pressing needs of a population that has been deprived and oppressed for more than a generation.

This brings us to the heart of the problem: How well will the new Palestinian interim government balance the competing interests it will represent — those of big business and other parts of society, those of the Palestinians inside Palestine and those outside, those of people displaced since 1948 and those of refugees from 1948, and so forth?

How will it respond to the needs of a devastated economy and society, in the Gaza Strip in particular, for rapid, equitable and sustainable development? At the same time, how will it respond to the people's need for democratic political expression and strong, effective governance?

The answers to these questions, far more than problems of security for Palestinians and Israelis, will determine whether we are on the brink of peace, or of a slide into chaos and ungovernability on the model of Somalia and many other countries in the post-world war era.

But at the same time, the Palestinian economy must be fundamentally restructured to decrease its near-total dependence on the Israeli economy, and also to foster greater autonomy and greater balance in its relations with other partners. The details of the accord do not bode well for such autonomy, or for any such balance, particularly since there has been no move so far to negotiate parallel economic agreements with the neighbouring Arab countries and the European Community.

This is not yet an irredeemable flaw. But for Palestinians who have seen the vast power of the Israeli manufacturing and agricultural lobbies to shape their government's economic policies in the occupied territories, extreme caution seems in order.

So, too, with the powerful Palestinian economic interests, many of which have already taken tentative steps toward cooperation with Israeli businesses. Again, in principle this is a wonderful thing. And the active involvement of the major Palestinian banking, construction, investment and accounting

But if government is autocratic, partisan and undemocratic; if corruption is rampant, particularly in view of the billions of development funds expected to flow into the area; if narrow private interests are untrammeled in their pursuit of their own advan-

## World peacemakers find new hope for resolving conflicts

By Charles J. Gans  
The Associated Press

new ways to deal with a very different set of problems.

In the former Yugoslavia, the bloodiest war in Europe since World War II is raging among Serbs, Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Despite repeated setbacks, international mediators hope the warring parties will soon sign a peace plan partitioning Bosnia that might end the carnage.

Other areas where major developments are possible:

— Angola, where about 100,000 people have died since the southern African nation plunged back into war a year ago after an 18-month period of peace. The United Nations, newly active after decades of cold war paralysis, has imposed sanctions to pressure Angolan rebels into resuming peace talks with the government to end Africa's bloodiest civil war.

— Haiti, where a U.N. force is planned to help restore exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power and help put the troubled country back on the democratic path.

— Communist North and capitalist South Korea, which signed historic pacts in 1991 aimed at reconciliation and eventual unification. Implementation has stalled over disputes on nuclear inspections.

— Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan, where fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan has claimed at least 15,000 lives in five years. Russia and other outside mediators continue efforts to halt the bloodshed.

— China and Taiwan, which continue to trade ideologically barbs. But China has turned some military positions along the Taiwan strait into economic development zones and tourist attractions. Taiwan now allows private travel and some business investment on the mainland.

— Vietnam. Just this week, President Clinton relaxed the U.S. trade embargo, allowing U.S. companies to compete for internationally funded development projects. U.S. businesses are clamoring for Washington to establish normal relations, but the PoW-MIA issue stands in the way.

— Cuba. The Clinton administration has no immediate plans to relax the 30-year U.S. trade embargo despite offers of warmer relations from Cuban leader Fidel Castro. But with his economy in a free fall from the loss of Soviet support, Mr. Castro has said he would make it easier for exiles to visit and allow individual private enterprises.

“There is a climate for peace but this climate has brought a different kind of conflict in many parts of the world,” said Mr. Urquhart, now at the Ford Foundation in New York. “The restraints which the cold war put on internal conflicts have been removed. The U.N. was set up for wars between states and what you have at the moment are civil wars. Governments and international organisations must devise

## Should Asia adhere to western human rights standards?

By David Briscoe  
The Associated Press

and whether democracy and political freedom are necessary to protect human rights.

The issues have been raised before, but they gain a new intensity as the Clinton administration becomes more deeply engaged in Asia.

The caution responds to a renewed debate over the imposition of western values on Asian cultures.

Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for Asia, said last week that the United States seeks to deal with human rights in China “not in some arrogant fashion of America imposing its values, but reflecting universal obligations under the United Nations Charter and steps that we honestly believe would be in China’s interest.”

He also said that while human rights should be a consideration in deciding whether Peking should host the 2000 Olympics, the United States would take no position on the selection to be made Sept. 23.

Mr. Lord indicated that human rights is not always the administration’s top priority in its relations with non-democratic regimes.

For Vietnam, he said human rights was “not a strict condition” but added that “the warmth and intensity of any relationship that we develop with Vietnam over time will depend in part on their record on human rights.”

Key questions in the Asian human rights debate are whether different values may be applied to easterners and westerners, whether social and cultural rights should precede individual rights.

UPD in 1st

## Poor water management threatens India's food supply

By Partha S. Banerjee

**DALTONGUNJ, India** — "I haven't eaten since yesterday. There is no food at home. No water, either." Buchwa Munda, an aboriginal Indian tribesman of indeterminate age, speaks of his destination in an embarrassed stutter — and only after some prodding. "I found some work this morning, and so there will be some food today. We won't be starving."

At Bairakhera, a tiny hamlet in eastern India's Palamau district, it is 117 degrees in the shade, but Mr. Munda is not overly bothered by the heat. He wears a white scarf over his head as protection against the blistering sun and carries a catapult to hunt birds. Bird meat provides almost the only variation in his family's diet of wheatcakes and salt. "We can't afford any vegetables, but I am often lucky with my catapult," he said. For water, Mr. Munda must walk to Manohar village over a mile away — the well in Bairakhera has almost completely dried up.

A cluster of mud houses on a barren slope, Bairakhera is no Baidoa (Somalia). No one here is dying of starvation. But, like hundreds of other villages in Palamau district of Bihar state and in Kalahandi district of adjoining Orissa state, Bairakhera is showing the first symptoms of famine. With no rain since last August and steadily climbing temperatures, crops have failed for two successive years and wells have dried up. Like Buchwa Munda, hundreds of thousands of people in the dry, eastern belt are waking up every other morning to no food. At least 50 people are reported to have died from starvation this year in the region, most in Kalahandi.

"Palamau and Kalahandi are still far removed from Somalia," said S. S. Mishra, a soil expert from India's Agriculture Ministry. "People have not been reduced to skin and bones. There are no shocking pictures here, but there is no mistaking the ominous signs of famine. The soil is degraded. It could get worse."

Last month, Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao flew to Palamau and Kalahandi to see for himself the extent of the drought. In Daltongunj, headquarters of Palamau district, he announced special federal relief assistance of \$60 million. Given India's size and resources, it is unlikely that a famine of African proportions will sweep its arid eastern belt, even if the rains fail again this year. Federal aid and foodgrains

rushed from outer parts of the country should keep disaster at bay, at least in the immediate future.

But Indian agricultural experts are worried beyond the immediate future. With a declining foodgrains production, they wonder whether the country will be able to support steadily expanding populations in the context of poor rainfall and recurring droughts. For two decades — since the late 1960s — India has not faced a food shortage, despite a 54-per-cent population increase, because of phenomenal agricultural growth. Foodgrains production shot up by 63 per cent between 1970-71 and 1990-91, to 176.2 million tonnes, a figure exceeded only by China, the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. As the spectre of starvation looms over certain districts, growth is reaching a plateau and even threatening to reverse.

As early as 1989, the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute warned that India could face a severe food and water crunch in the decade ahead. Since then, annual government economic surveys have corroborated that prediction, reporting declining agricultural growth. Last year's economic survey indicated a likely fall in foodgrains production by 1.5 per cent. In a country with the

world's largest irrigated area and where the success of the green revolution had ensured good self-sufficiency for two decades, that clearly was unsettling news.

Experts attribute India's declining farm output to land degradation. Deforestation and dredging of critical watersheds have upset the natural water cycle, causing more rain to run off in damaging floods and less water to percolate into the ground to recharge the aquifers. Even areas under irrigation are not doing well. Yields from some irrigated lands are half what agronomists say they could be. And because of the rising costs of maintaining irrigation networks, large sections of land under irrigation are not being farmed.

Worldwatch Institute's Sandra Postel, presenting the 1989 study, said India would need to double its irrigated acreage to ensure self-sufficiency in food in the 1990s. More important, she stressed, the country desperately needs to improve water management and check land degradation. "Water management is key," agreed agronomist Jayanta Bandopadhyay of the Research Foundation for Science and Ecology, based in Dehra Dun in northern India. "Because of rain run-off and the degraded soil's poor water retention, even high

rainfall areas are now turning barren."

Palamau and Kalahandi are cases in point. The two eastern districts average an annual rainfall of 130 cm, more than many areas in India receive. It is also enough to tide over a poor rainfall year, provided the water does not run off the slopes. Last year in Palamau district, the total precipitation — averaged over 17 collection stations — was 65 cm. "It hasn't rained since August, not a drop," said Pramod Singh, vice president of the Palamau unit of the ruling Congress-I party. "And because the soil can hold no moisture due to surface run-off, the crops failed totally."

In Nawadib village, three miles from Bairakhera, Sister Valsa, a Roman Catholic nun from the southern state of Kerala runs a mission school and hospital. Over 300 children attend the primary school. The mission has also adopted 100 destitute families, providing them with free meals for a three-month period. "I would say a fifth of my students cannot get to eat regularly at home," said Sister Valsa. "We hold some of them back after school and feed them a second time."

Twelve-year-old Santosh Majhi, one of the school's poorest students, speaks shyly, his eyes averted. "My father is a sharecropper, but there is no work in the farms this year," he said. "Last week, no one at home ate anything for three days in a row, except by brother and I. We are in school." Majhi's father, like millions of other unemployed sharecroppers in the drought-hit region, depends on the government's food-for-work scheme for subsistence. Excavating a 1-foot deep and 10-foot square tract of earth for roadbuilding fetches 4 kg of wheat. But work under the scheme is not always available.

In Kalahandi and adjoining districts in Orissa state, where droughts have recurred almost every year since the mid-1980s, a large part of the population has migrated to the cities in search of work. In many villages, only the very old and very young remain behind. At least 14 families are known to have sold their children in desperation.

Kumari Bhoi, who sold her 8-year-old daughter to a Brahmin priest for \$16, told the Indian Express newspaper she might be forced to sell her second child if the situation gets worse. Mrs. Bhoi's husband has tuberculosis and is disabled. After press re-

ports publicised her case, the state government advanced her 1,000 rupees (\$33) to launch a small business and her husband with a tricycle for the handicapped.

State governments in Bihar and Orissa have sought to downplay and often deny newspaper reports of starvation deaths and the distress sale of children. Bihar's Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav said recently that no one had died of hunger in his state, arguing that the deaths were caused by disease. But, countered Palamau's Congress-I vice president Pramod Singh, "If you get nothing to eat for 10 days, you are bound to fall ill." In 1989, the Orissa government was taken to court for discriminating a starvation death. The court ruled against the government, ordering the administration to pay 25,000 rupees (over \$830) as compensation to the victim's family.

Tilak Dhari Singh, 35, of Dul-sulma village in Palamau district, who lost three children to starvation, described his family's helplessness and desperation as the children wasted away. "When the crops failed, I began frantic search for work. But work was scarce. There are few government food-for-work projects in the area. We ate maize paste and berries and roots. Most days we ate nothing. The children fell ill. I could not take them to the government hospital. I was too busy looking for work. I could not even afford the bus fare. In the third week of March, they died, one after the other, as we watched helplessly. My wife hasn't spoken since."

"Palamau represents the early version of the ultimate environmental crisis that could befall India," said A. Santosh Mathew, the district's deputy commissioner or chief administrator. "It's only seems that the droughts are going to get worse every year." Added Mr. Mathew: "What we also need is sustained policy. As governments change, priorities change, and, with them, policies. With a little persistent effort, India can get over its drought problem and never fear famine."

— World News Link



This peasant from eastern India looks for water in a dry river bed; deforestation, soil erosion and lack of rain have brought back the spectre of famine (WNL photo).

## Government launches '93-'97 plan

(Continued from page 1)

services, lifting the average per capita share of total consumption at constant prices to JD 776 at the end of the period and raising the average per capita income of GDP at constant prices to JD 894 at the end of 1997.

The minister stressed that the five-year plan was not a continuation of the previous plans, although there was a four-year lags in economic planning from 1989 until 1993 during which an adjustment programme and an amended adjustment programme were drawn to bring about economic growth and monetary stability and eliminate structural imbalances.

"It is a new plan in terms of goals, methodology and operation," he said.

He summarised the most im-

portant aspects of the plan, which was approved by the council of ministers last week, as:

1) The crystallisation of economic policies instead of concentrating on executing development projects. As such, the new plan focused on developing the investment climate by having included the laws and regulations, the institutional framework and the bases which would widen the private sector role in investment and trade.

2) Giving very high consideration to the social development dimension and to address the possible negative impacts of implementing the economic adjustment programme.

3) Giving the necessary long-term consideration to the role of the public sector in organisation and control within the course of upgrading government adminis-

## Arafat: Jerusalem will be capital

(Continued from page 1)

tration to overcome bottlenecks that impede the private sector from playing its role.

4) Reviewing and updating the plan at the end of each year in light of results and changes on the local scene as well as foreign considerations to maintain the plan operative.

5) The harmonisation of the plan with the goals of the economic adjustment programme as the plan is part of the programme and not a substitute of it.

Dr. Fariz said local savings would increase steadily over the coming years and investments would be tapping these savings for 40 per cent of the need.

The rest of the funding, according to the minister, will come from international tenders and donors as well as foreign investors.

## PLO opponents step up campaign

(Continued from page 1)

Fatah had announced in Tunis that it reached an agreement with Hamas to avoid outbreaks of violence between pro- and anti-peace accord Palestinians in the occupied territories. Hamas officials in Jordan then denied that any agreement had been reached.

Mr. Lidawi described the PLO-Israel accord as "signed by a gang that does not represent the will of the Palestinian people."

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Hamas pledged Saturday to pursue the anti-Israeli uprising as 2,000 supporters marched against the autonomy pact.

The group said attacks on

"Jews and their agents" would continue "throughout all of Palestine."

The Hamas supporters demon-

strated peacefully in the streets of Gaza City for about two hours,

waving black flags on mourning

and green, red, black and white

Palestinian flags bearing inscriptions from the Koran, witnesses

said.

The PLO needs representation

as early as next month to coor-

dinate negotiations on im-

plementing the Israel-PLO

accord, he said.

Legal experts say that since the

PLO is not a country, it cannot

have an embassy.

the Gaza Strip, prayed outside the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks before dispersing, the witness said.

Their protest came after several days of rejoicing by tens of thousands of Palestinians in the streets of Gaza Strip.

Hamas pledged, meanwhile, in a statement denouncing the accord, to continue the uprising in the occupied territories and attacks on Israelis.

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Three Israeli soldiers stayed into the Hamas demonstration but their jeep was escorted out safely by organisers.

The troops drove out of Gaza's military administration headquarters to find themselves smack in the middle of the protest.

Hamas accused the PLO of "abandoning the struggle for national rights" and said it would pursue an Islamic holy war "until Palestine is liberated and a Palestinian Muslim state is established."

The movement called on Palestinian groups "opposed to the policy of compromise and treason" to unite and urged members of Fatah to fight the "shameful capitulation" of their lead-

ership.

In Baghdad, a newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's son published a harsh attack Saturday on Mr. Arafat and urged the Iraqi authorities to organise opposition to the Israeli-PLO accord.

The commentator in the daily,

Babel, also mooted the possibility of an Iraqi reconciliation with Syria.

The peace deal signed between the PLO and Israel was "an act of submission by Arafat," said the article in the paper, which is run by Oday Saddam Hussein.

"Even if we do not treat him (Arafat) as a traitor, we accuse him of making too many concessions" in the autonomy deal signed in Washington.

"Far from constituting a step of the road to peace, the (accord) is a defeat which will lead to more defeats," according to the commentator, who wrote under a pseudonym.

He accused Mr. Arafat, who had close ties with President Saddam before the PLO-Israeli deal, of signing it in an attempt to "check the rise of Hamas."

## King: No decision yet to delay elections

(Continued from page 1)

in terms of its details and dimensions but finally took a stand that I could not but take. Neither I nor any one among you or in the Arab World can outbid the (Palestinians)," the King said in the 90-minute meeting.

Stressing that people should focus on the positive achievements of the agreement, the King said, "our story (in the Middle East) is that of missed opportunity."

The King said opportunities were lost in the past for two reasons. The first was that the Palestinians wanted to represent themselves and the second was that the majority in the Arab World had tended to go for the easy solutions through outbidding one another and trying to belittle the others.

The King said Palestinians who choose to stay in Jordan will continue to receive full citizenship rights and can claim compensation for their rights in the occupied territories.

"The basic thing is that we maintain our integrity as a one national unit and not allow anybody to do harm to this country with the purpose of destroying it or hurting it ...," the King said.

The King urged the Palestinians to remain united despite

the negative consequences and increase positive elements that could lead to the goal of achieving just and comprehensive peace," the King said.

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"I was surprised by the accord

Save water ... every drop counts

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Opening of  
Mister Donut  
at  
Swafieh

Look for  
Opening Surprise!

Mister Donut  
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## Study says Asian competitiveness gaining on U.S.

ZURICH (R) — The United States and other mature industrial countries still lead the world in international competitiveness, but Asian newcomers will probably overtake them, Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) said in a study published Friday.

The bank said economic growth in east Asia had been, on average, nearly triple that of the old industrial world. Hong Kong and Singapore were quickly coming into line with North America and Europe.

The analysis, in the latest issue of UBS International Finance, is based on data from 38 countries, including major members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and leading nations in Asia, Latin America and eastern Europe.

Employing special indices that measure each nation's ability to develop products, income, and employment opportunities for its people, it concluded that the U.S. economy still led the world.

But the report added that although the United States was 10 to 20 per cent ahead of Japan and large European countries and more than 50 per cent ahead of Korea, the largest newly industrialised country (NIC), its lead was steadily reducing.

Over the past decade Japan had halved its productivity gap with the United States, and most advanced European countries had also drawn closer to the United States.

The report said the United States was still slightly ahead of Switzerland, based on a measure of its resources (capital, labour, natural resources and management skills) and its efficiency in using those resources.

Both countries had comparable resources, but Switzerland was less efficient due to its cartels, farm subsidies and land-use restrictions.

Japan, in third place, had simi-

lar resources, but remained markedly inefficient due to its farm and land policies and limited financial market competition.

Looking ahead, the report said Japan should overtake the United States in around 1998, and Singapore could pass the United States just after the turn of the century and catch Japan in just over 10 years.

Korea, currently third-ranking NIC after Hong Kong and Singapore, could catch up with the United States by around 2008 and with Japan in about a generation, although its growth would slow from present levels.

The report said Thailand and China, from their much lower starting points, were well behind today's leaders. But in less than a generation Thailand could reach Singapore's current standard and China could attain the income level Koreans now enjoy.

It stressed that the strong growth of many Asian NICs was bound to slow, as it was based on low wages that workers would not tolerate indefinitely.

"Workers will not be content for ever with postponing consumption to sustain 40 per cent investment rates," it said. "As the fast growing countries catch up, pressures to improve social services will rise and threats from the next group of miracle countries will encourage recourse to similar protectionist measures as now slow more mature economies."

The study suggested that the crucial challenge for mature countries was to improve their ability to move "upscale" when confronted with low-wage competition.

Shifting away from subsidies and market protection appeared to offer more potential for achieving this than more widely discussed but also necessary efforts to increase investment in infrastructure, education and research, it said.

## Saudi banks boost capital to meet BIS rule

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Several Saudi banks have boosted their capital while others are setting aside more funds for provisions to meet adequacy rules set by the Bank of International Settlement (BIS).

Five of the 12 commercial banks — Riyad Bank, the Saudi-Cairo Bank, Al Jazira Bank, Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi, and the Saudi British Bank — have raised their capital by around seven billion riyals (\$1.86 billion).

"Other banks, while they have

not raised their capital, have largely boosted their shareholders equity by transferring more funds for the general reserves," said Zahair Kaswani, a leading Gulf stockbroker.

Shareholders equity of the banks, except the troubled National Commercial Bank (NCB), jumped by nearly 50 per cent to 22.5 billion riyals (\$6 billion) in 1992 from 15 billion riyals (\$4 billion) in 1991.

Their assets also rose, by around 14 per cent to 234.2 billion riyals (\$62.4 billion) from 206 billion riyals (\$55 billion).

The figures, obtained from the Arab Banking Union, show the average capital adequacy increased to around 9.6 per cent in 1992 from 7.2 per cent in 1991. The 1992 average exceeded the eight per cent floor set by the BIS as an acceptable level for capital adequacy — the ratio between shareholders equity and assets.

The ruling is intended to ensure banks worldwide have enough funds to face a financial crisis.

NCB, the biggest Gulf bank, also plans to increase its capital of around 30 million riyals (\$8 million) which is a fraction of its assets of 80 billion riyals (\$21.3 billion).

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## Gaidar calls for urgent stabilisation measures in Russia

MOSCOW (R) — Yegor Gaidar, due to rejoin the Russian government next week, called Friday for urgent measures to curb inflation and stabilise monetary growth.

Mr. Gaidar, 37, told a conference of private firms in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don that though action was needed to stabilise Russia's economy.

"Stabilisation... will demand tough decisions in the area of state expenditure, foreign economic activities and drastic changes in state purchasing policies," he said. His comments were reported by ITAR-TASS news agency.

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## Ethiopian economy surges but reform policies bite

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Economic growth in Ethiopia is struggling to recover from years of civil war and Marxist dictatorship, has surged ahead since the adoption of radical liberalisation policies, says the country's finance minister.

Alemayehu Dhaba told Reuters in an interview GDP growth in the 1992-93 July-June fiscal year hit 7.6 per cent, its highest for years, and was projected to be 5.8 per cent in 1993-94.

He said this compared to negative growth of (-) 7.4 per cent in 1991-92, the year of the overthrow of Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam which ended the longest and one of the most bitter civil wars in Africa.

"There has been a big change

on all fronts of the economy," he said.

Mr. Alemayehu said a World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) sponsored recovery programme had brought a dramatic improvement in all the main economic indicators as measures dismantling a command economy had taken effect.

Inflation has tumbled to 10 per cent from 30 per cent well below the IMF bank target for last year of 20 per cent, he said.

The minister added that the drop in inflation was achieved despite a devaluation in November 1991 of more than 100 per cent from 2.07 birr to the dollar to 5.00 to the dollar.

"This was a major step taken

so as to implement the broad economic policies. The budget deficit was large, inflation was at its peak of 40 per cent when the former military government was replaced (in May 1991)," he said.

Mengistu bankrupted the country, one of the poorest in the world with per capita income estimated at less than \$100 a year, with a war against Eritrean separatists and northern rebels.

Marxist economic policies destroyed agricultural production in a country where 80 per cent of the people live off the land and triggered huge food shortages, exacerbated by drought.

When the two-and-a-half year transitional government was set up by the former rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Demo-

cratic Front (EPRDF), Ethiopia's coffers were empty and the country only had foreign exchange cover of a couple of days.

"We liberalised prices, price adjustments were made, farmers were released from control and allowed to sell at what price they wanted," Mr. Alemayehu said.

He said these and other reforms, which included large increases in domestic interest rates and reductions in the highest rates of tax and tariff duties, triggered a major increase in agricultural output and fuelled new growth.

Production of coffee, the main export, soared from 35,000 tonnes in the 1991-92 Oct.-Sept. crop year to near 70,000 tonnes in the 1993 crop year and is expected to

reach 80,000 next year.

This has helped push total revenue from exports, which, aided by a sharp decrease in smuggling after devaluation, jumped from 112 million SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) in 1991-92 to 189.9 million this year and is projected to soar 246.8 million SDRs next year.

Foreign exchange cover has now increased to about eight weeks and is projected to move to more than three months cover.

Ethiopia's economic turnaround has won plaudits from Western governments initially sceptical as to whether the former rebels had truly dropped the leftist ideology of their days in the bush and were truly committed to free market economics.



Yegor Gaidar

will allow one to speak about long-term prospects for the Russian economy," Mr. Gaidar said.

Mr. Fyodorov, worried at rising Russian inflation rates, has said interest rates must stay high to curb inflationary pressures.

Mr. Gaidar also said that giving large volumes of credits to enterprises would lead to a budget deficit of as much as five trillion roubles (\$5 billion) a month, up from current levels around 800 or 900 billion (\$800 or \$900 million).

This could lead to monthly inflation of 65 per cent, well above the 50 per cent threshold viewed as the start of hyperinflation. Russian consumer prices rose almost 30 per cent in August, the highest monthly rate this year.

A Gaidar aide said earlier the incoming minister, to become one of three Russian first deputy prime ministers, would make privatisation and control of the budget deficit his priorities.

The aide said Mr. Gaidar's terms for rejoining the Russian government had included a demand that Mr. Lobov be removed from the economic ministry.

Mr. Lobov's demands to change the privatisation programme, a cornerstone of the reform efforts, had alarmed Western economists already unsettled by the rising inflation and a mushrooming budget deficit.

The Western diplomat said the new government would now have a strong core of young economists determined to bring reforms back on track. They include Mr. Gaidar, Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov and Anatoly Chubais, responsible for privatisation.

But some of Mr. Gaidar's comments Friday seemed to clash with the tough financial line espoused by Mr. Fyodorov. Mr. Gaidar called for low interest rates for manufacturers and low tax rates.

"Only the implementation of four fundamental conditions — financial stability, a low interest rate for goods manufacturers, a low taxation level and reliable protection of owner's rights —

## Report: Massive corruption hobbling Philippine economy

MANILA (AFP) — An intelligence task force said in a report Friday that massive corruption, especially among members of the economic and political elite, was a major obstacle to rapid growth of the economy here.

The group, in a report presented during a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC), said that it was only now, when Manila was trying to catch up with its more prosperous Asian neighbours, that Filipinos were seeing the debilitating effects of this.

Despite the presence of numerous anti-corruption laws, no prominent public official or businessman has been imprisoned for corruption in Philippine history. Most of those convicted or jailed are provincial governors, town mayors and clerks.

"Clearly, development cannot take place in our country... unless we deal aggressively with graft and corruption and put our house in order," said a report prepared by the task force on graft and

corruption and the national intelligence board.

It said that from 1981 to 1986, the government lost 20.4 billion pesos (\$728 million) owing to tax evasion. In 1987 alone, 21.6 billion pesos vanished because of smuggling and 45.4 billion pesos were pocketed from the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

No figures were given for other periods, but task force members said the "astronomical" amounts mentioned illustrated the gravity of the problem.

The task force traced the practice to an "ethic of easy money" pervasive in Philippines culture which "presupposes that government is a milking cow" — and corruption is both its instrument and its product."

It said that while corruption

was practised by the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, economic corruption was the worst because it "lies at the core of mass poverty and economic inefficiency."

"The core of economic inefficiency lies in the gross irresponsibility of some members of the economic and political elite," the task force added but did not mention any specific people or institutions.

President Fidel Ramos convened the NSC, which is composed of congress leaders, cabinet members, business and sectoral representatives, to discuss international developments, emerging trade blocks and peace initiatives with dissident groups.

To combat the problem, the group called for political will to go after grafters and the creation of a powerful anti-graft body responsible only to President Ramos.

The proposed agency shall deal only with "cases of national importance" and "major cases... involving collusion between the economic and political elite and ranking public officials" that result in "injury to the national interest."

## EC's Delors suggests global study of capital controls

STRASBOURG (R) — European Commission President Jacques Delors threw the can among the monetary pigeons with a call for an international study into the possibility of reimposing controls on the movement of capital.

"Cars are free to circulate but still there are speed limits, therefore I do not see why, at the international level, we should not study ways to limit monetary movements," Mr. Delors told the European Parliament. "Bankers cannot act at will... why should we not draw up some rules of the game? Why should not the Community take the initiative?"

With up to \$1 trillion a day flowing across foreign exchanges, there have been suggestions from various quarters that capital controls should be brought back to help protect the Community's battered currency grid.

However, the European Community (EC) monetary committee and the committee of EC central bank governors both concluded in reports published in May in response to the turmoil in the exchange rate mechanism that capital controls were not the answer.

"The committee does not see much value in even the limited use of exchange controls as an instrument of crisis management," the monetary committee, charged with technical management of the currency grid, said in its report.

Economists, bankers and even the commission's top monetary official — Economic Affairs Commissioner Henning Christophers — have all ruled out the idea as inoperable.

"Capital controls are not a feasible reaction," he said in a recent interview. He added that even before they were finally lifted in most places during the 1980s, they were being circum-

vented wholesale.

Mr. Delors pointed out to the European Parliament that EC states still had the leeway to reimpose capital controls under exceptional circumstances and for a limited duration to protect their currencies from attack by money markets.

He complained that the commission had not been granted the power to impose controls at a Community level.

Politicians and economists

alike argue that the attacks of

of a single currency.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 1993

# Economy

## Moroccan industry hit by drastic power cuts

RABAT (R) — Moroccan factories are suffering from drastic power cuts caused by two years of drought.

The state utility Office National de l'Electricite (ONE) said Friday water reservoirs were nine-tenths empty and hydroelectric stations, which normally provide nearly a third of Morocco's electricity, were running at 38 per cent of their 687 megawatts capacity.

After the failure of appeals to save energy voluntarily, the ONE has cut supplies by 95 MW at

peak periods in Casablanca, where most Moroccan industries are located.

Several hundred factories are affected, notably in the textile, garment, cement, petroleum, printing, computer and building materials sectors. Domestic supplies have not been reduced.

The cuts are to be extended soon to the town of Mohammedia north of Casablanca where light industries surround the Samir oil refinery, the biggest in the country with a capacity of five million tonnes a year.

## Africa to set up trade financing bank

ABU DHABI (AFP) — African states will create a bank to finance their flagging trade and have secured subscriptions from several Asian and European countries, an adviser to the project said Saturday.

Africim Bank will have a capital of \$750 million and could be based either in Cairo or Tunis, said Ismail Moulood Ould Daddah, who is touring wealthy Gulf Arab states to invite more subscriptions.

"The venue of the project will be decided by the general assembly when it holds its first meeting in Abuja in the third week of

October. It will also announce the birth of the bank," he told AFP by telephone from Dubai.

Subscriptions have so far exceeded \$500 million but will continue even after the bank is established, he said.

African governments own 35 per cent of the project, while 40 per cent is held by the African private sector and the rest by foreign investors.

Africim Bank is the latest in a series of initiatives by the African Development Bank (ADB) to support the economies of African nations, which are reeling under poverty, famine, debt and slow

growth, according to Mr. Daddah, former Mauritanian ambassador in Egypt.

"It will finance the internal and external trade of African nations and will operate on a commercial basis," he said. "This will contribute to development as it will ensure financing for imports and exports, which have remained relatively low in the absence of foreign investors."

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another subscription would come soon from France.

Mr. Daddah is touring Gulf Arab states to invite subscriptions for the project. He earlier visited Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain.

Several Gulf banks are already contributors to a similar Arab fund, the Arab Trade Financing Programme, set up by the Arab Monetary Fund in 1989.

Apart from Africans, subscribers include Britain, Luxembourg, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, India and other Asian countries, he said, adding that

## Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman seek to link stock markets

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Three Gulf Arab states are holding talks on linking their stock markets as part of a plan to create a joint exchange in the region, a Gulf official was quoted on Saturday as saying.

Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman, the only countries in the region with official floors, have been in touch on opening up their markets to each other, said Hassan Al Nisif, Bahrain trade and agriculture undersecretary.

"There are consultations between the three countries to find a mechanism for sharedealing," he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Khaleej.

"This will allow the shares of each country to be traded in the stock markets of the three countries. The project could constitute a nucleus for a joint stock market in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)."

But Sheikh Nisif said a joint market, stipulated by the GCC's 1982 Economic agreement, needed time because there were no formal exchanges in the three other members — Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE.

In the UAE around 22 institutions with capitalisation of \$8.3 billion actively trade their shares.

"For the time being, I can say that the creation of a joint Gulf stock market is unrealistic because the circumstances do not allow that," Zuhair Kawasni, a leading UAE stockbroker, told AFP.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 18/09/1993				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED	OPENING	CLOSING	PRICE
VOLUME	2D	PRICE	PRICE	PRICE
JORDAN BANK	1,123,000	189.000	189.000	189.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,220	36.000	37.000	37.000
CAIRO ARAB BANK	45,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	72,156	2.070	2.080	2.100
THE HOLDING BANK	29,314	2.100	2.100	2.100
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	422,741	3.080	3.180	3.180
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	12,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2,064	3.990	4.100	4.070
JORDAN LEVANT BANK	4,454	4.100	4.100	4.100
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1,700	2.000	2.000	2.000
HELY KELIM BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	29,365	2.640	2.660	2.770
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	22,100	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	3,800	2.070	2.040	2.040
JORDAN PETROLEUM & INDUSTRIAL BANK	523,703	7.320	7.300	7.300
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	2,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL CITY	26,000	2.000	2.000	2.000
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	36,705	0.610	0.610	0.640
JORDAN BANK FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	4,071	1.770	1.780	1.780
JORDAN GUIDE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5,289	0.880	0.880	0.880
JORDAN MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT CENTER	1,700	1.130	1.140	1.130
JORDAN MACHINERY, REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	1,700	1.130	1.140	1.130
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCERNED HOTELS	67,295	2.240	2.260	2.260
ABAD INVESTMENT FOR EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT	60,594	2.810	2.840	2.840
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	26,001	1.000	1.000	1.000
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	82,309	7.910	7.820	7.650
THE JORDAN MINERALS KILLS	109,907	11.750	11.750	11.750
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS MANUFACTURING	24,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	18,260	7.600	7.630	7.630
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	20,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
THE JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	17,373	3.960	3.960	3.980
THE PUBLIC MINING	180	2.780	2.800	2.780
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	26,230	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	5,230	0.690	0.680	0.680
JORDAN PETROLEUM & INDUSTRIAL TRADE	26,001	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY & TRADING	7,188	2.800	2.770	2.750
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	115,385	10.100	10.100	10.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,360	0.340	0.340	0.340
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	39,917	5.910	5.910	5.910
JORDAN ROCKWORK INDUSTRIES	5,278	2.660	2.660	2.640
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	5,400	0.600	0.600	0.600
JORDAN PRECISE CONCRETE INDUSTRY	16,457	6.700	6.500	6.500
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	21,676	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	26,761	2.730	2.700	2.690
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	1,700	2.680	2.680	2.680
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	32,139	5.620	5.650	5.610
GRAND TOTAL	5,224,619			
NO. OF TRADES SINCE IN PARALLEL MARKET	1,30			
TRADED VOL. IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	308,113			

Financial Jordan Times  
in co-operation with  
Markets Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York CLOAC Date 16/9/1993				
U.S. Dollar	2.93				
Sterling Pound	1.5923				
Deutsche Mark	1.6038				
Swiss Franc	1.4005				
French Franc	5.5940				
Japanese Yen	104.23				
European Currency Unit	1.1935**				
U.S. Dollar	1.1778				
U.S. Dollar Opening at 8.00 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates					
Date 17/9/1993					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	2.93	3.06	3.25	3.50	
Sterling Pound	5.81	5.81	5.75	5.75	
Deutsche Mark	6.56	6.47	6.18	5.90	
Swiss Franc	4.56	4.62	4.31	4.12	
French Franc	7.13	7.06	6.70	6.20	
Japanese Yen	2.71	2.56	2.53	2.59	
European Currency Unit	7.72	7.50	7.19	6.62	
Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals					
Date 17/9/1993					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	351.25	7.00	Silver	4.06	0.090
24 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Date: 18/9/1993					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900			
Sterling Pound	1.0522	1.0575			
Deutsche Mark	0.4257	0.4278			
Swiss Franc	0.4892	0.4916			
French Franc	0.1222	0.1228			
Japanese Yen	0.6580	0.6613			
Dutch Guilder	0.3782	0.3811			
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000			
Italian Lira	0.0459	0.0441			
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000			
Per 100					
Other Currencies					
Date: 18					

## Georgians rally to save Sukhumi

SUKHUMI, Georgia (Agencies) — Rival Georgian armies put aside their differences and headed shoulder to shoulder to back Mr. Shevardnadze's appeal for help.

Supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who earlier this week attacked government militia in western Georgia, headed to Sukhumi with their erstwhile enemies.

The so-called "Zviadists" forces reopened a vital rail link to the port of Poti, which they had closed, to enable military equipment and men to get to the Abkhazian front.

It was unclear how the Zviadists and pro-Shevardnadze Mkhedrioni militia would manage to move up the coast to Sukhumi, as the territory was nearly completely controlled by rebels.

Local news agencies said that about two thousand civilian volunteers also had left the capital Tbilisi for Sukhumi by air.

Sukhumi Saturday echoed to the crash of big guns and tanks of Georgian forces fired on Abkhaz rebel positions on the Gumista River, but there was little response from the rebel side after their morning attacks were repulsed.

The military press service said however that intense fighting was continuing around the village of Shroma, set in hills about 15 kilometres north of the city.

As armed volunteers poured in, so refugees — many of whom had returned to their homes

ing the truce — began to stream out of the city on pickup trucks and horses and carts.

It emerged Saturday that Mr. Shevardnadze had failed so far to get the full support from Russia which he regards as the key to the Abkhazia settlement.

Mr. Shevardnadze and Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev met Friday near the southern Russian town of Sochi to try and salvage the deal, Abkhazian rebel leader Vladislav Ardzinba failed to show up at the talks.

Mr. Shevardnadze said the talks had been constructive, but "the results were disconcerting. The introduction of additional peacekeeping force that was required is not taking place."

Mr. Grachev, speaking at a Moscow news conference Saturday, appeared irritated with Mr. Shevardnadze as neither side appeared ready to try to end the conflict.

Russian Television said Moscow cut off power to Abkhazia early Saturday, one day after the Foreign Ministry said sanctions would be imposed if rebels did not withdraw.

Four Russian paratroopers were wounded in fierce fighting overnight around Sukhumi, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

The Russians were wounded, two of them seriously, when their barracks in the centre of Sukhumi was hit by shells in cross-fire from both sides.

Georgian troops were con-

tinuing to resist though virtually surrounding in the city on the shores of the black sea, three days after the separatists broke a truce in force since the end of July.

The leader of the separatist rebels in Abkhazia called Saturday for a general mobilisation in the region, news agencies reported.

In a television address, Mr. Ardzinba said he had ordered rebels to take up arms across Abkhazia, where his troops broke a two-month-old ceasefire Thursday to protest Georgian truce violations, Interfax reported.

The Abkhazian Ministry of Defence said its troops continued to maintain a "complete blockade" of Sukhumi, Interfax added.

The United Nations Security Council had demanded that separatist Abkhazian leaders in Georgia end their attack on Sukhumi or face "serious consequences."

In a nonbinding statement Friday, the 15-member Council strongly condemned attacks by Abkhazian forces on Sukhumi and the town of Ochamchira. It called the attacks a "grave violation" of the Sochi ceasefire agreement of July 27, mediated by Russia.

"The Council demands the Abkhaz leadership end immediately the hostilities and promptly withdraw all its forces to the Sochi ceasefire lines," it said.

Georgian troops were con-

## Last Russian troops leave Poland



WARSAW (AP) — The last Russian troops based in Poland boarded a train for home Saturday, a day after the two countries offered contrasting assessments of their long presence here.

The 17 soldiers and seven officers left Warsaw before dawn after being seen off by a Defence Ministry official and dozens of journalists. They were expected to reach the border within a couple of hours.

On Friday, Russian Ambassador Yuri Kashlev and Polish President Lech Wałęsa gave sharply contrasting statements at a farewell ceremony on how the Russians, who first invaded on Sept. 17, 1939 — just over two weeks after the Germans swarmed in from the West — have affected the country.

"Our soldiers are leaving with a clear conscience," Mr. Kashlev said. "Their fathers came here fighting against our common enemy."

Mr. Wałęsa's retorted: "The day of Sept. 17 has been a painful and tragic date, opening the way that led Poles to prisons and labour camps ... through martyrdom, enslavement and humiliation."

But while he recalled the bad feelings associated with the anniversary, he said Poles now can use it to look to the future.

"On Sept. 17, 1939, Poland, fighting against the German invasion, was hit in the back," Mr. Wałęsa said. "The day of Sept. 17, 1993, ends a certain epoch in our common history. In Polish territory, there are no more foreign troops. Poland's sovereignty is finally confirmed."

Relations between Russia and Poland have improved markedly since the fall of communism. Rus-

sian President Boris Yeltsin made a goodwill visit last month.

But behind-the-scenes bickering for Friday's ceremony showed that plenty of work remains.

Mr. Kashlev represented his country after Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who had planned

to attend, cancelled two days before, citing a kidney problem.

That led Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski to say he would not sign papers finalising the withdrawal because there are still "certain details which demand negotiations."

## Bosnian Muslims mount attack despite truce

VITEZ, Bosnia (Agencies) — Muslim forces overran a Croat-held village as heavy fighting continued beyond a Saturday noon ceasefire in Bosnia's Lasva River Valley area.

"What's going on appears to be a BH (Muslim-led Bosnia Army) offensive with infantry and artillery assaults on a number of Croat positions around Vitez," said Captain Cameron Kiggel, a British liaison officer with the U.N. Protection Force.

"It quietened down for about 10 minutes before noon, but they started right back up again."

"There is no ceasefire since noon, that's for sure," a U.N. information officer in the central Bosnian town of Kiseljak told Reuters.

Fighting was reported after midday in the Travnik area, around Vitez, Prijedor and Bosnica, Nova Bila, Gornji Vakuf and Mostar. "They were exchanging anything from small arms to mortar fire," he said.

The ceasefire was agreed by the presidents of Bosnia and Croatia in Geneva and the respective army commanders signed a declaration in Sarajevo Friday committing them to implement the accord.

It has been called ahead of peace talks in Sarajevo Tuesday

between leaders of Bosnia's warring Muslim, Croat and Serb communities.

Huge plumes of smoke rose from fires burning on a ridge three kilometres southeast of Vitez where government troops took the village of Bobas.

Capt. Kiggel said the Bosnian army had pounded the village with mortar and artillery fire before capturing it.

Scattered mortar, artillery and heavy machine-gun fire echoed up and down the Lasva Valley into the afternoon Saturday as Muslim and Croat forces appeared engaged along an extended front.

Croat soldiers in central Bosnia have been warning that hard-core Muslim fighters in this area will not abide by any ceasefire agreement.

"This is not a local flare-up, this is a general attack on the entire region," said Darko Galic, a liaison officer for the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) in Vitez.

"The Muslim goal is to take the entire Lasva Valley, destroy the HVO and expel the Croats."

The Lasva River runs from the Muslim-held city of Zenica through Croat Vitez and on towards Travnik, which the Mus-

lims also hold.

U.N. sources say 23 truck-loads of Muslim fighters were recently seen deploying towards the vicinity of Bobas from the south, part of a general movement of government troops in the Lasva Valley region.

"It wouldn't surprise me if they used the next few days to grab a bit more land," said Capt. Kiggel, referring to the Bosnian army.

HVO troops in the Lasva Valley feel themselves vulnerable to an all-out attack by Muslim forces, a fact visible in the strained faces of Croat soldiers in Vitez Saturday.

Meanwhile, after three days of balloting, the U.N. General Assembly elected eleven lawyers and jurists to serve as judges on the first international war crimes tribunal established since the end of World War II.

Their election Sept. 15-17 is part of a continuing process begun by the Security Council last year in response to reports of atrocities committed during the fighting in the former Yugoslavia, wanted to see on the panel. The will each serve a four-year term and will take office in two months.

In pressing for women jurists on the tribunal earlier this year, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said "We must ensure that the voices of the groups most victimised are heard by the tribunal. I refer particularly to the detention and systematic rape of women and girls, often followed by cold-blooded murder. Let the tens of thousands of women and girls who courageously survived the brutal assault of cowards who call themselves soldiers know this: Your dignity survives, as does that of those who died."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Britain may seek Japanese compensation

TOKYO (Agencies) — Britain may ask Japanese companies which benefited from slave labour by British prisoners of war in World War II to pay some form of compensation, senior government officials said Saturday. Speaking on a plane carrying Prime Minister John Major to Tokyo for a four-day visit, the officials said that the question of compensation would be raised "unequivocally" with the Japanese government of Premier Morihiro Hosokawa. The officials acknowledged that a blunt demand for government compensation would almost certainly be met with an equally blunt rejection. Mr. Major arrived in Tokyo Saturday for a four-day visit. He is the first foreign leader to visit since the government of Mr. Hosokawa took power last month. The British leader will hold talks with Mr. Hosokawa Monday. He is also scheduled to meet with other Japanese government and business leaders. Mr. Major is accompanied by a delegation of business leaders, who will seek to boost trade during the visit.

### U.S.: N. Korea rejects talks conditions

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea has rejected U.S. conditions for the resumption of talks on Pyongyang's nuclear programme but held out the possibility of further discussion, a White House official said. In a letter to North Korea about 10 days, Assistant Secretary of State would not hold the third round of bilateral talks — scheduled this month — as long as North Korea did not meet U.S. conditions, the official said. Under U.S. conditions for holding the round, North Korea was to resume talks with South Korea and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to monitor its nuclear activities. The United States fears that North Korea may be developing a nuclear weapons programme. Pyongyang's response was "overall fairly negative, but left open the possibility of some continuing discussion on this issue," the official said on condition of anonymity.

### Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Hope was fading Saturday for 24 Filipino seamen whose cargo ship went down off Hong Kong in the wake of severe tropical storm Becky a day earlier, rescue officials said. Two search flights failed to turn up any sign of the crew of the Anderson, a 6,600-tonne bulk carrier that was headed for Guangzhou, China, with a cargo of iron from Russia when it went down late Friday southwest of Hong Kong. The sole survivor was recovering on a rescue ship headed for Pusan, South Korea, the colony's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre said. Also still missing were 15 people from one of two fishing vessels lost when Becky lashed the South China coast with gale force winds, causing widespread flooding and property damage in Hong Kong and Macau, the centre said.

### Akihito ends European tour

BONN (AP) — Emperor Akihito of Japan and the Empress Michiko Saturday wound up a European tour that was strong on cultural content but also marked Japan's more active international role in the post-cold war era. The imperial couple were to leave Munich for home Saturday evening at the end of a six-day visit to Germany preceded by visits to Italy and Belgium. Their trip lasted over two weeks in all.

### Cuban Air Force captain defects

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — A Cuban Air Force captain defected Friday in a MiG jet that he landed at Key West Naval Air Station, sparking a dispute among military officials about whether the flight had been tracked. The MiG-21 landed without incident at the base in Key West, 145 kilometres from the Cuban coast. Cmdr. Drew Malcomb, deputy director of public affairs for the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) and U.S. Space Command in Colorado, Colo., said the plane evaded radar detection. "This aircraft, flying at the altitude that he did, at the speed that he did, is considered sort of a pop-up, and was not detected by the hardware," he said. It was spotted at an altitude of 50 feet (15 metres) travelling more than 500 miles per hour (800 kph), Cmdr. Malcomb said. The Soviet-made MiG was on a training flight and wasn't carrying any missiles, said Marine Capt. Tim Hoyle at the Atlantic Fleet Command in Norfolk. Capt. Smith said the single-seat jet was equipped with a 22 millimetre machine gun. Capt. Enio Ravelo Rodriguez, 32, asked for political asylum and was turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service within three hours, a common first step for Cubans to enter the United States under relaxed immigration laws. He remained in custody late Friday.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton urged China Friday to cancel an underground nuclear test at State Department officials wrapped up talks with other governments aimed at getting them to put pressure on Peking. "I am still very hopeful that the Chinese will not do that, and I have asked other nations that have relations with China to also encourage them not to do it," Mr. Clinton said. "The Chinese are finding their strength today ... in economic growth," the president said at a press conference. "And I would hope that the Chinese would see their future in terms of their economic strength and step away from this." China said Saturday it maintained a "very restrained attitude" toward nuclear tests but did not deny U.S. allegations it was planning one. In response to reporters' questions about the U.S. claims, the Foreign Ministry issued a one-sentence statement Saturday that said: "It is known to all that China has all along taken a very restrained attitude towards the nuclear test issue."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Olympic flame to be lit in Stone-Age fashion

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Lillehammer will go back to the Stone Age to light the Olympic flame for the Winter Games it will host next February. Competitions are to be held in Norway from next month to find out who can light a flame fastest by rubbing two sticks together, the Lillehammer Olympics Organizing Committee (LOOC) announced Friday. On November 27, the winner will rub his sticks together to make a fire in the fireplace at the home of the founder of Telemark Skiing, Sondre Norheim, in Mordedal in Telemark. For 75 days, the torch will then tour the mountains and fjords of Norway and even go out to a North Sea oil platform. It will meet up with the Olympic flame from Greece in Oslo February 5. The opening ceremony will be in Lillehammer February 12.

### Sampras falls to Agassi

PHOENIX (AP) — Pete Sampras, the first American to win Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in the same year since John McEnroe in 1984, was no match for Andre Agassi. Facing each other in a Thursday night exhibition, Agassi routed the new U.S. Open champ 6-3, 6-4 in just 69 minutes. Sampras took over the No. 1 ranking in the world after winning the U.S. Open title Sunday. Agassi had lost in the first round, dropping his ATP tour ranking to No. 20. But Agassi came out with a crisp serve and was the sharper of the two players Thursday night.

### Drug testing to begin at Davis Cup series

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Drug testing will be introduced at all Davis Cup series beginning in 1994, the International Tennis Federation announced Friday after its week-long conference. The ITF also formalized plans to run the Federation Cup as a year-long playoff similar to the Davis Cup, its male counterpart as an international competition among countries, beginning in 1995. In preparation for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, the membership also approved the recommendation that men's singles and doubles matches be best-of-5 sets except for the finals, which will remain best-of-3. The ITF also abolished the traditional 10-minute break after the third set of best-of-5 Davis Cup matches.

### Cuban teams denied entry to U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Two Cuban volleyball teams will be barred from the United States for world championship qualifying matches next week because they applied for their visas too late, officials said Friday. The Cubans were to be among seven nations in the North American, Central American and Caribbean (NORCECA) Zone championships for women in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and for men in New Orleans, Louisiana. The tournaments, scheduled for September 20-25, were switched last month from Monterrey, Mexico, for financial reasons. The switch may have caught out the Cubans. The U.S. Volleyball Association said they had been told the Cubans applied for visas on September 1, and that it usually takes 21 days for a visa to be approved.

### Maradona not summoned to national team

Buenos Aires (AP) — The list of players summoned to play for the Argentine national soccer team against Australia for a berth in the 1994 World Cup did not include star midfielder Diego Maradona. Maradona, who returned recently to professional soccer in a local team, may be summoned later, an Argentine Soccer Association spokesman said. The list, released Friday, includes defenders Carlos McAllister and Victor Sotomayor, who did not play in the recent qualifying round won by Colombia. Argentina was the favorite to win the round, but was trounced twice by Colombia, 2-1 and 5-0. Argentina will play its away game with Australia October 31.

### Timman, Karpov draw 7th FIDE chess game

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman and Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov agreed a draw after 21 moves in the seventh game of the FIDE World Chess championship Friday. Karpov now leads the match by four points to three. The next game is in Amsterdam with Karpov having the white pieces. The winner in the 24-game match will be the first to reach 12½ points.

### Burruchaga set for Independiente move

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Jorge Burruchaga is set to return to his native Argentina with Independiente, pending the outcome of the Marseille-Valecenes match-fixing scandal. Burruchaga, charged with corruption over attempts to buy the May 20 clash between the two sides, is about to seal a one-year contract with his former club. But the Buenos Aires club President Horacio Sande made it clear French justice must take its course before Burruchaga is taken on board. A meeting of the French Federation takes place Sept. 21, and action on the match-fixing scandal is scheduled to be announced the next day.

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K 5 3  
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\* K J 8 6 3  
WEST  
\* J 9 5  
J 10 9  
J 10 8  
\* K 8 5 4  
\* K 7 5 4  
SOUTH  
A Q  
A 7 6 4 2  
A 7 6 2  
\* A 10  
The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 2 Pass  
2 Pass 4 Pass  
6 Pass Pass  
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Are you proud of your skill as a declarer? If so, cover up the East-West hands and decide how you would play six hearts after the lead of the diamond jack.

It is unlikely that West would lead away from the king of diamonds against a slam, but it costs nothing to try the queen from dummy. As expected, East produces the king.

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PASSENGER 57  
CONCORD 2  
LAST ACTION HERO  
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1992 world champion Carlos Sainz of Spain is airborne over a bump during the 1st stage of the Australian Rally (AFP photo)

## New Zealander dies on first day of rally

PERTH, (AP) — New Zealand co-driver Rodger Freeth died of injuries from a crash on the opening day of Rally Australia near Perth Saturday.

Freeth, 40, and his driver Possum Bourne, also from New Zealand, rolled their Subaru Legacy into a pine plantation midway through the third of the event's 34 special stages.

Freeth was airlifted to Royal Perth Hospital but died in the operating room. Bourne was also admitted to hospital but Rally Australia official Garry Connelly said Bourne's condition was stable.

It was the first fatality in Rally Australia's four-year history and was the first death in a World Rally Championship event since 1986. World rallying's governing body, FISA, will launch an inquiry into the incident, officials said.

Finland's Juba Kankkunen continued his profitable association with the race and strengthened his grip on the world drivers' crown of the tragic opening day.

Kankkunen, who has won three of the four rally Australia titles, recorded the fastest time in all of the nine special stages held Saturday. The Toyota Celica driver finished the opening leg with a 1 minute, 17-second lead over Scotsman Colin McRae in a Subaru.

The same stage that claimed Freeth's life also forced current world champion Carlos Sainz to withdraw from the rally. The Spaniard spun his Lancia into a bush and was unable to complete

the stage.

Another prominent rally figure, Frenchman Didier Auriol, was also a casualty on the opening day. Auriol, who needed a strong performance to remain in touch of current Drivers' Championship leader Kankkunen, damaged an oil sump on his Toyota during the sixth special stage and was forced to retire.

Kankkunen can extend his 20-point advantage with a steady performance over the next three days.

A win by either Auriol or Kankkunen would give Toyota rounds of the World Championship to be held.

Frenchman Francois Delecour was Ford's leading entry in third position Saturday, more than two minutes behind Kankkunen.

Connelly said it was still uncertain what injuries caused Freeth's death, which occurred near York, 80 kilometres east of Perth.

From what eyewitnesses have described the co-drivers' side of the car took most of the impact of the collision," said Connelly. "That part of special stage three has two jumps and it seems the nose of the car ended up crashing straight into the ground when it came down.

"From that point the car rolled off the road. We are unsure whether the car hit a tree but the stage is through forests and pine plantations."

Connelly said the event's medical helicopter, which included a doctor, was on the scene within five minutes.

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## 'China will definitely go to Atlanta'

MONTE CARLO (R) — China gave a clear undertaking Saturday that it would attend the 1996 Atlanta Olympics regardless of whether Beijing wins Thursday's vote for the 2000 Games.

China's top Olympic official, He Zhenliang, made the commitment to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), IOC Director-General Francois Carrard told a news conference.

The announcement ended an apparent threat that China might not go to Atlanta if it did not win the 2000 Olympic vote.

He Zhenliang had ruled out a boycott of the 1996 Summer Games Friday but had refused at a

news conference to say that Chinese athletes would actually go to Atlanta.

Zhang Baifa, chief executive of Beijing's bid committee, said Friday a boycott was possible because of political interference by the U.S. House of Representatives, which passed a resolution in July opposing Beijing on human rights grounds.

Zhang told the official Xinhua News Agency Saturday that he had been misquoted. Beijing is competing with Sydney, Manchester, Berlin and Istanbul to host the 2000 Games.

## Palestine set for Olympic recognition

MONACO (AFP) — Palestine is to become a provisional member of the International Olympic Committee, IOC Director General Francois Carrard said Saturday, clearing the way for Palestinian athletes at the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

He doubted whether any Palestinians from Gaza or Jericho would take part in next February's Lillehammer Winter Games in Norway but expected to see them in Atlanta in three years' time.

The executive board will ask the IOC session here to ratify Palestine's membership next week, a board proposal has never been turned down.

"The athletes of Palestine will be participating, if they so wish, at all the next Olympic Games," Carrard said. "This has to be ratified by the session."

The Palestinians have been pariahs since the 1972 Olympics in Munich when a group of Black September Guerrillas broke into the Olympic village, seized Israeli athletes and eventually killed 11 of them and one policeman.

Five of the guerrillas died when they attempted to take their hostages out of the country.

Carrard said the board's decision had taken account of Israeli feelings.

"It was a very black moment for the Olympics in 1972 but we are in 1993. The people (in charge of Palestine sport) can certainly not be held responsible for what took place 20 years ago," he said.

"This is a time for peace, this is a time for progress, this is a time for youth, for the Olympic movement to open its arms and its doors with respect for all other National Olympic Committees and particularly for the NOC of Israel."

He said he saw no anomaly between athletes from Gaza or Jericho competing in Atlanta and none from Nablus — which is outside this week's Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization agreement.

He did not rule out a token representation — of officials — at Lillehammer.

Palestine leader Yasser Arafat's handshake with Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawns in Washington on Monday had changed the situation, he said.

Palestine had applied for membership in the past but had been turned down because it had no sovereign territory.

"More than 100 states had already recognised Palestine before the PLO-Israeli agreement," he added.

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Britain's Linford Christie after winning the men's 100m sprint in Stuttgart (AFP photo)

## Torino, Inter face tough tests in 5th round

MILAN (AP) — It's only the fifth round, but Torino is riding high on its wave. Without its much-ballyhooed Uruguayans, Torino is 3-1-0, on top of the Italian First Division and not even worried about playing Parma Sunday.

"We have made wonders so far, with a shuffled team, and we want to keep it on. However a defeat would be no drama," Torino coach Emiliano Mondonico said.

Since 1949, when a plane crash wiped out the Torino team and marked the last of its four consecutive league titles, the club has won only the Italian League crown — 1976.

Climbing to the top of serie A will have strength 11, including forward Fausto Asprilla and Carlos Aguilera, still on duty with their national team in World Cup qualifying, has some people thinking title again.

Conversely, pre-season favourite Internazionale is 2-1-1, and wants to avoid falling further

behind cross-town rival AC Milan this early in the season. It travels to Rome to face Lazio.

In other games Sunday, Cremonese is in Bergamo, to play Atalanta; Cagliari is at Foggia; Napoli at Genoa; Reggina is in Turin to play Juventus; AC Milan hosts as Roma; Sampdoria is at Udinese, and Piacenza faces Lecce.

Besides Francescoli and Aguilera, Torino also may be without Italian striker Andrea Silenzi, who has two goals already. Silenzi is sidelined with an ankle injury suffered in its 2-0 victory over Lillestrom Wednesday in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Parma (3-0-1) will have a full-strength 11, including forward Fausto Asprilla and Carlos Aguilera, still on duty with their national team in World Cup qualifying, has some people thinking title again.

"It's time that all players show to have understood the way we must play. We can't afford other false steps," said Inter's coach Osvaldo Bagnoli.

Inter has had problems integrating Dutch newcomers Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk into its system. But that may be ending.

Bergkamp, who sat the first half of last week's surprising loss to Cagliari, scored three goals in a UEFA Cup match against Rapid Bucharest Wednesday night.

He will team in front with Jonk and Italian striker Salvatore Toti Schillaci.

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## Jordan expects World Bank to study impact of self-rule

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is calling for the formation of a task force under the World Bank umbrella to assess the economic impact of Palestinian autonomy in the region's countries, informed sources said Saturday.

The sources said Jordan expects the World Bank to endorse the proposal at a meeting in Washington Monday, where a World Bank-prepared report on economic development for the occupied territories will be formally released and discussed.

One of the sources said Jordan had "some reservations" on the report but that these were "adequately addressed through diplomatic channels" ahead of the meeting, which will bring together Israel, Arab states, the Palestinians and donor countries.

"We expect that the Jordanian concerns will be formally addressed in document accompanying the World Bank report," said the source.

"We are proposing the establishment of a panel entrusted with the task of assessing the economic impact of Palestinian autonomy on the countries in the region," said the source. "The study should consider the repercussions as well as the positive effects."

According to the source, the World Bank has responded positively to the Jordanian proposal, and "we hope this will be part of the decisions adopted in Washington."

Jordan, burdened with \$6.5 billion in foreign debts and continuing to strain under the severe economic blow that the Gulf crisis dealt to the Kingdom, is implementing an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-prescribed economic restructuring programme.

The World Bank is highly appreciative of the Kingdom's adherence to the programme, which could be set back if Jordan were to suffer any serious economic losses as a result of the implementation of the autonomy accord.

One of the issues Jordan hopes that the Washington meeting

would tackle is coordination of and channel through which the development programme for the occupied territories to support the Palestinian self-rule authority envisaged under the Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Jordan is aware that it will find itself competing with Israel, in the short, medium and long terms," said another source who is close to the government.

"It will be ironic that Israel, by virtue of its stranglehold on the Palestinians, monopolises the rebuilding of Palestinian economy and infrastructure," said the source.

Palestinian sources said the Palestinians also had reservations over the World Bank report, mainly because it implied Israel might assume a leading role in rebuilding the West Bank and Gaza, the territories it occupied and whose infrastructure and economy were destroyed over the past 25 years.

"Let us say it clearly," said a Palestinian source. "It will be like rewarding aggression. Why should the Palestinians be forced into a corner where they have no choice but to turn to Israel? We would like to exercise free options."

According to the Jordanian sources, the Palestinians could actually strengthen their negotiating position with the Israelis if they had Jordanian-offered options.

Energy experts estimates the initial annual energy needs of the Palestinians at between 100 million megawatts and 150 million megawatts and say that Jordan could easily meet this requirement.

Jordan has an installed capacity of over 1,000 megawatts, and it produces up to 700 million megawatts annually. It can easily spare the overproduction with the Palestinians if a grid connection could be made between South Shuneh on the East Bank and Jericho on the West Bank.

Likewise, Jordan could meet a lot of the construction requirements of the Palestinians. It has spare capacities to produce building materials, including cement and steel.

"It is important that certain principles and groundrules are set from the very beginning," said Jordanian official. "For our part, Jordan has to move quickly to define the grey areas in the economic context of the autonomy agreement," he said, underlining that "the autonomy agreement is supposed to take effect on Oct. 13. We have very little time."

Analysts and officials say that while Jordan was not considering the autonomy agreement as a vehicle to advance its economic objectives, the Kingdom had

genuine economic concerns and claims which should be addressed.

Apart from the physical control of the land, one of the key cards that Israel wields in dealing with the Palestinians is its monopoly over essential services such as water and energy.

The occupied territories depend solely on Israeli utilities for these two vital services. In addition, the only flour mill of the size that could cater to the Palestinian needs is located in Haifa.

"It will be some time before the Palestinians will have their own water and energy networks under the economic development programme," noted the Palestinian source. "We are aware that Israel could very well link the two services in the interim to a big chunk of the development funds."

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'ORDERLY' PROTEST: An Israeli soldier watches supporters of the Islamic movement Hamas demonstrating in the streets of Gaza City Saturday, against the Israeli-PLO agreement. Some 2,000 people marched peacefully as confrontations with Israeli security forces were avoided on both sides (AFP photo)

### 30 injured in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — More

than 30 people were wounded, 10 seriously, in a mortar attack near a Mogadishu hospital Saturday, as a U.S. soldier was injured in a separate mortar attack amid continued fighting in the capital.

At least 34 people were wounded when two mortar shells fell outside Difger Hospital, said its deputy director, Doctor Mohamad Husein Haji.

"We heard a huge explosion," he said. "Some people in our casualty department were hurt. After five minutes came another shell. It shook the whole hospital."

Eight of the 34 wounded were discharged within hours, he said. Most were hurt by shrapnel or splinters of glass from windows shattered by the blasts.

"Some of them are our staff. Some were patients with injuries who got new ones, and others were their relatives," he said.

Dr. Mohammad said it was unclear where the shells came from. A U.N. spokesman denied its forces were responsible for the attack.

Around the same time, a U.S. soldier was wounded in separate mortar attack on U.N. headquarters here, after U.S. Rangers had stormed a compound and detained eight Somalis, U.N. spokesman U.S. Major David Stockwell said.

He said the soldier's injuries were not life-threatening and that he was "in stable condition." He was being treated at a U.S. field hospital.

Suspected Somali militiamen fired four 60-millimetre mortar rounds into the U.N. compound, Maj. Stockwell said.

The shelling, which he said was apparently in retaliation for the raid on the compound of an aide of fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed, followed a similar attack Tuesday that slightly wounded 11 people.

Maj. Stockwell said U.S. ground forces backed by helicopter gunships had seized eight Somali men at the compound of Osman Ato, General Aideed's chief financier, and marched them back to U.N. headquarters where they were being held.

Gen. Aideed, wanted for the June 5 killings of 24 Pakistani soldiers, is believed to be hiding in the Bokhara market area of south Mogadishu.

Meanwhile, U.S. soldiers tossed stun grenades from helicopters to drive away news photographers taking pictures of U.N. peacekeepers dispersing a crowd in Mogadishu, Maj. Stockwell confirmed. (See page 2)

The PLO said Thursday it is ready to end its antagonism with Israel in the U.N. General Assembly by revising resolutions against the Jewish state.

The officials said Mr. Christopher is considering a trip to the Middle East in October if he believes his presence will advance U.S. objectives in the region.

Weakening of the boycott was one of four goals outlined Thursday by State Department spokesman Mike McCurry as administration priorities now that Israel and the PLO have agreed on a framework for peace.

He said the administration also is encouraging broad international support for the agreement and also is urging countries hostile to Israel to establish normal relations with the Jewish state. One potential candidate in this category is Morocco, which welcomed Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for a visit while he was en route home from Washington this week.

"We have the best opportunity in years to head this one off," said one official.

U.S. officials believe an opportunity for weakening the Arab boycott of Israel is at hand not only among more moderate members of the Arab League but also among the many industrialized countries that have not taken a strong stand against the boycott. U.S. law forbids American citizens from honouring the ban.

"We don't want crowds around our soldiers," Maj. Stockwell said, stressing that Somali gunmen had often hidden behind mobs.

Mohammad Yazigi, regional manager of the Seven-

### U.S. will stay its course in Somalia, Clinton affirms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Resisting

calls for the withdrawal of American troops from Somalia, President Bill Clinton said Friday the United States cannot allow the country to revert back to a state of mass starvation and lawlessness.

"We certainly can't afford to do anything that would permit the country, after all the efforts the United Nations has made, to deteriorate to its former condition where hundreds of thousands of people are killed or starved at random," Mr. Clinton said.

Eight of the 34 wounded were discharged within hours, he said. Most were hurt by shrapnel or splinters of glass from windows shattered by the blasts.

Mr. Clinton discussed Somalia during a White House meeting and working lunch with Italian Prime Minister Carlo Ciampi. The two leaders later appeared at a joint news conference.

Mr. Ciampi stressed the need for diplomacy "to give a new political dimension" to U.N. intervention in Somalia. "Without this, a purely military action would not make any sense," he said.

Italy feels the United Nations is moving too aggressively against forces of fugitive warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed, and that the focus should be more on humanitarian relief instead of confrontation.

Acknowledging differences with Italy, Mr. Clinton said, "both of us believe that some renewed political initiative in Somalia is important, because in the end there has to be a political settlement that leaves the Somalis in control of their own destiny."

The problem, Mr. Clinton said, is "how to do it without in any way rewarding the kind of behaviour that we have seen that could spread among all the other warlords who have been essentially playing by the rules and trying to work out a peaceful life for the people..."

However, he said, "there plainly was never intended to be nor could there be some ultimate military solution to Somalia." Promising that the United States would not get bogged down in an indefinite commitment, Mr. Clinton said, "It's not going to be a situation we just can't get out of."

Mr. Clinton said the United States favours a political initiative to stop the increasing violence in Mogadishu, where U.N. peacekeepers are entangled in near daily clashes with the followers of Gen. Aideed.

Any political initiative must enable Somalis to take control of their own affairs in peace, in dignity and without starvation and murder," Mr. Clinton said.

Casting doubt on any accommodation with Gen. Aideed, Mr. Clinton said, "We don't want to do something that rewards the very conduct we went to Somalia to put an end to."

On other foreign-policy issues, Mr. Clinton:

— Expressed cautious optimism about a surprise peace agreement between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims. "We are hopeful about this, but also properly

wary.... There's been no territorial agreement and that is the hub of the controversy."

— Said he was exploring the possibility of a "donors conference" of major nations that would be asked to contribute billions of dollars needed for establishing a Palestinian government in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

— Urged China to "step away" from reported plans to resume nuclear-weapons testing, saying China has nothing to fear from any of the world's other nuclear powers.

There is growing sentiment in Congress for withdrawing American troops from Somalia. Last week, the Senate passed a resolution urging Mr. Clinton to seek congressional authority to continue U.S. involvement. The House of Representatives may consider a similar measure next week.

— It is plain to me that it was never an option for us to continue to pursue a military solution or to be obsessed with Aideed or anybody else, to the exclusion of trying to build a peaceful society," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton also said he was disturbed by the deaths of Somalis in clashes with U.N. forces. "But I'm also disturbed that this is plainly part of a strategy by supporters of Gen. Aideed to make the presence of the U.N. more unpopular there in all the member countries," he added.

### Rick James convicted of assaulting woman

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. (AP) —

Funk singer Rick James was convicted of assaulting a woman even though he had told the jury, "I abuse drugs, not women." The jury acquitted him of torturing her. In a separate and unrelated case, the jury convicted James of furnishing cocaine to a woman he was charged with assaulting at his Hollywood hills home in 1991.

Prosecutors say he tied the woman to a chair, burned her with a crack cocaine pipe and a heated butcher knife, and forced her to perform sex acts, but the jury deadlocked on all those charges. James, best known for the 1981 hit Super Freak, was ordered held in custody pending sentencing Oct. 8. Prosecutors said he could be sentenced to nine years in prison. "I'm concerned about the community's safety," said Superior Court Judge Michael Hoff. "I think he's a danger." James was convicted of assaulting Mary Saiger, 35, and holding her against her will on Nov. 3 in a suite at the St. James's Club and hotel. He was acquitted of torturing the west Hollywood woman.

### Senators received 680 free trips

WASHINGTON (AP) — Businesses, trade groups and other organizations that lobby Washington treated senators to 680 free trips during the last two-year session of Congress, a private group said. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston accepted the most trips — 28 — during 1991 and 1992, said Public Citizen, the national group founded by consumer advocate Ralph Nader. Sen. Bill Bradley and Sen. Conrad Burns followed with 24 each. The trips ranged from short hops to New York and Boston to journeys to Taipei, Taiwan, Montego Bay, Jamaica, Vienna, Austria, and Tel Aviv, Israel.

While many of the trips may have been necessary or valuable, many probably were not, Public Citizen President Joan Claybrook said. "In the minds of citizens, accepting gifts to travel from lobbyists is emblematic of what's wrong with government in Washington," Ms. Claybrook said during a news conference today. Public Citizen has proposed requiring the federal government to pay for all legitimate congressional travel. Special interest groups provide most of their trips to members of Congress who sit on committees with jurisdiction over their interests, Public Citizen said.

### League to back Israel-PLO deal

(Continued from page 1)

Also to be discussed is Iran's occupation of three Gulf islands claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with the league reaffirming its support for the UAE.

The league will further examine the situation in Somalia, a member country no longer represented on the ministerial council, and to decide on admission for the Comoros to the pan-Arab body.

#### Boycott not on agenda

"No Arab country has asked that a lifting of the boycott be considered," one Arab League source said. "And we don't expect any of our 21 members to do so by Sunday."

"The boycott does not figure among the 37 items on the agenda for the session."

The United States has called on Arab states to end the economic boycott following the signing of the Israel-PLO agreement.

Adnan Omran, the deputy secretary-general of the Arab League, said last week that a lifting of the boycott "is not foreseeable until a complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1867, including Jerusalem."

The United States also recently

called on Gulf states to abandon the boycott and normalise relations with Israel.

State Department officials said Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to press for a start on easing the boycott during meetings with Arab foreign ministers later this month at the U.N. General Assembly.

The officials said Mr. Christopher is considering a trip to the Middle East in October if he believes his presence will advance U.S. objectives in the region.

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He said the administration also is encouraging broad international support for the agreement and also is urging countries hostile to Israel to establish normal relations with the Jewish state. One potential candidate in this category is Morocco, which welcomed Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for a visit while he was en route home from Washington this week.

"We have the best opportunity in years to head this one off," said one official.

U.S. officials believe an opportunity for weakening the Arab boycott of Israel is at hand not only among more moderate members of the Arab League but also among the many industrialized countries that have not taken a strong stand against the boycott. U.S. law forbids American citizens from honouring the ban.

Mr. McCurry said the administration is also seeking to eliminate what he described as the "unhelpful language" about Israel in a number of U.N.

General Assembly resolutions approved over the years.

Other officials, asking not to be identified, said Arab opposition has normally succeeded in overriding American opposition to such resolutions.

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